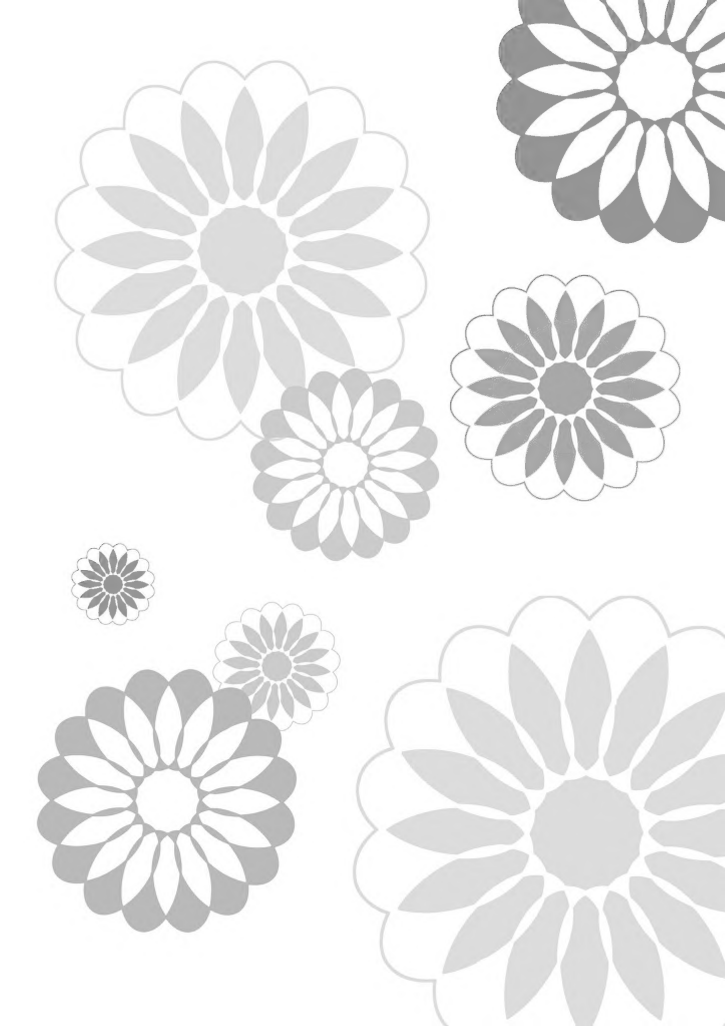
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

20

ああっ女神さまっ

Oh My Goddess!



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 20

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

ORIGINAL TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Toren Smith

LETTERING AND TOUCHUP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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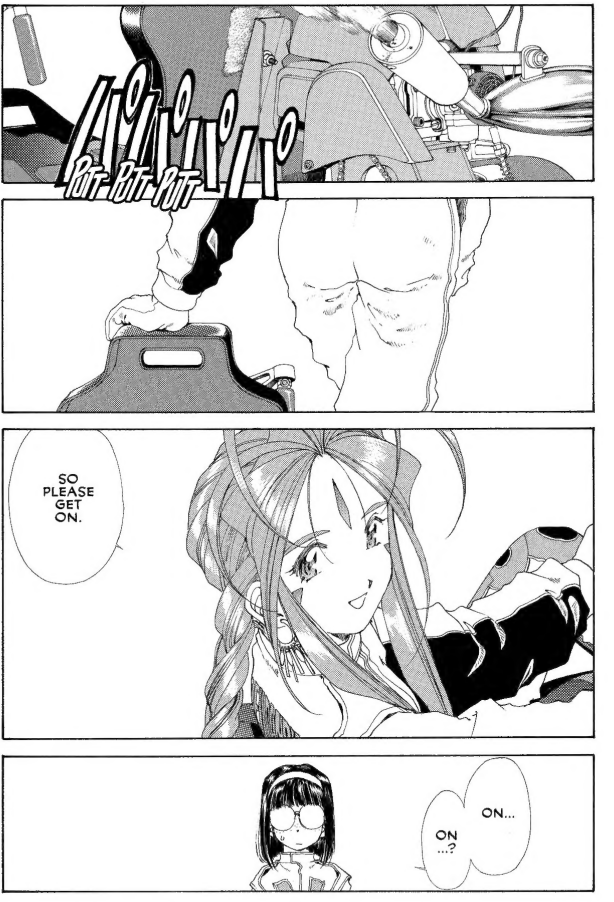
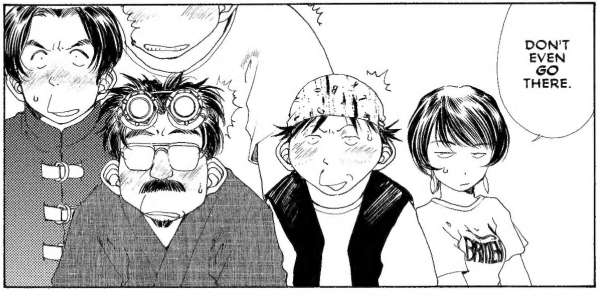

PUTT PUTT PUTT
SO PLEASE GET ON.
ON...
ON ...?

CHAPTER 121

The Doomed Director

RIGHT HERE.
THERE?

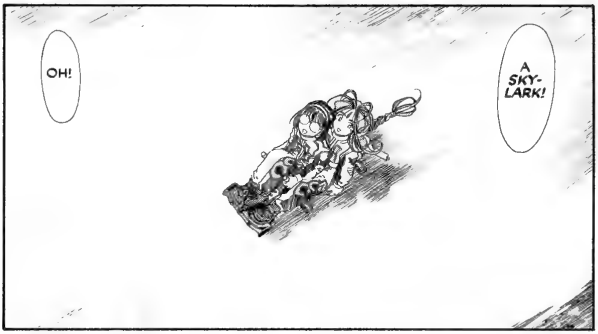

DON'T EVEN GO THERE.

...
OKAY.
LET'S GO!
BWAAAA
HUH?
MY WORK IS DONE.
BRITTEN
BRITTEN

BUT... HAS MISS BELLDANDY EVER DRIVEN A GO-KART?
SHE'S GOT BELL-DANDY. SHE DOESN'T NEED *ME*.
BUT, WHAT IF--
ア ア ア BWAAAN...
NOPE!
BELL AND MACHINES *UNDER-STAND* EACH OTHER.
BUT, *NOTH-IN'!*

HMM.
I'M GOING BACK TO MY SHOP. LATER!

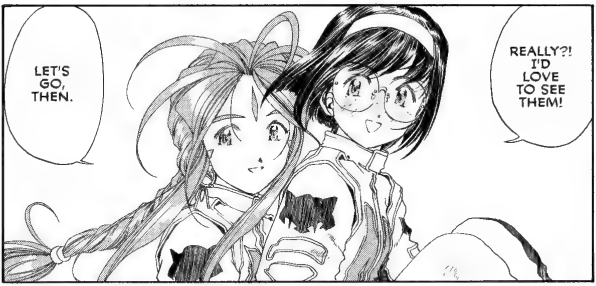
I'M SCARED...
I'M SO SCARED.
MISS BELL-DANDY BEING WITH ME ISN'T HELPING AT ALL!
AH! ♥
EH?

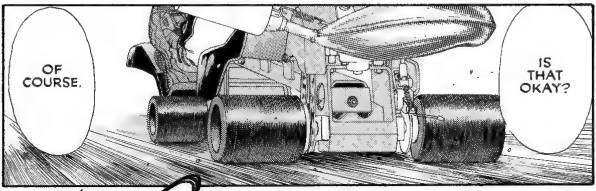

OH!
A SKY-LARK!

ピーヒョロロ
ピーヒョロロ
ピーヒョロロ

OVER IN THOSE TREES THERE'S A MAMA RACCOON AND HER BABY...
AND THERE'S A STARLING NESTLING!

AND AN OWL... BY THAT BUILDING FURTHER DOWN THIS TRACK.

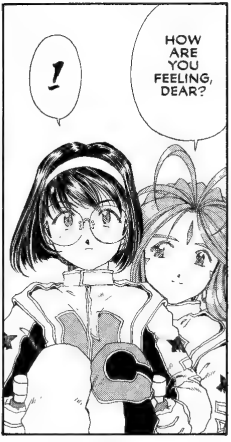


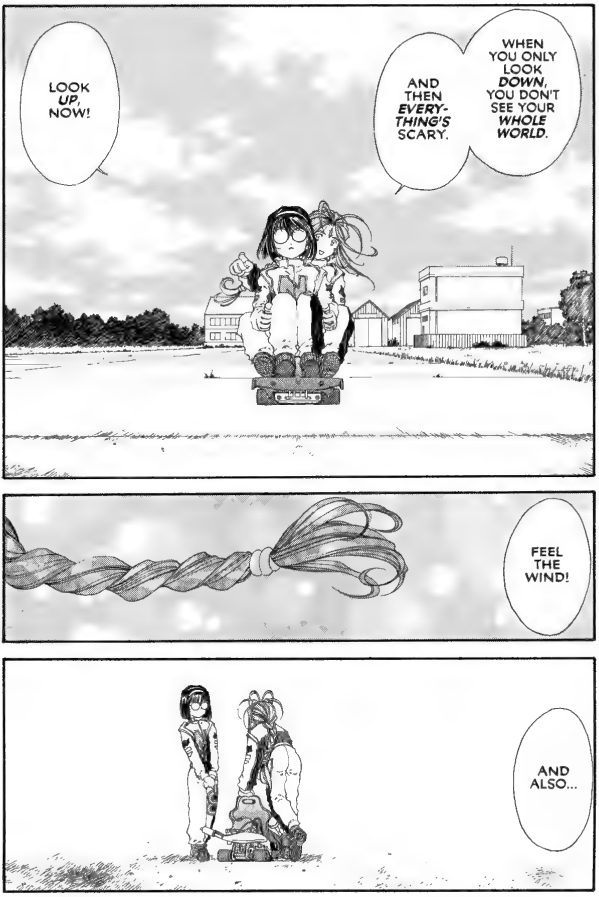


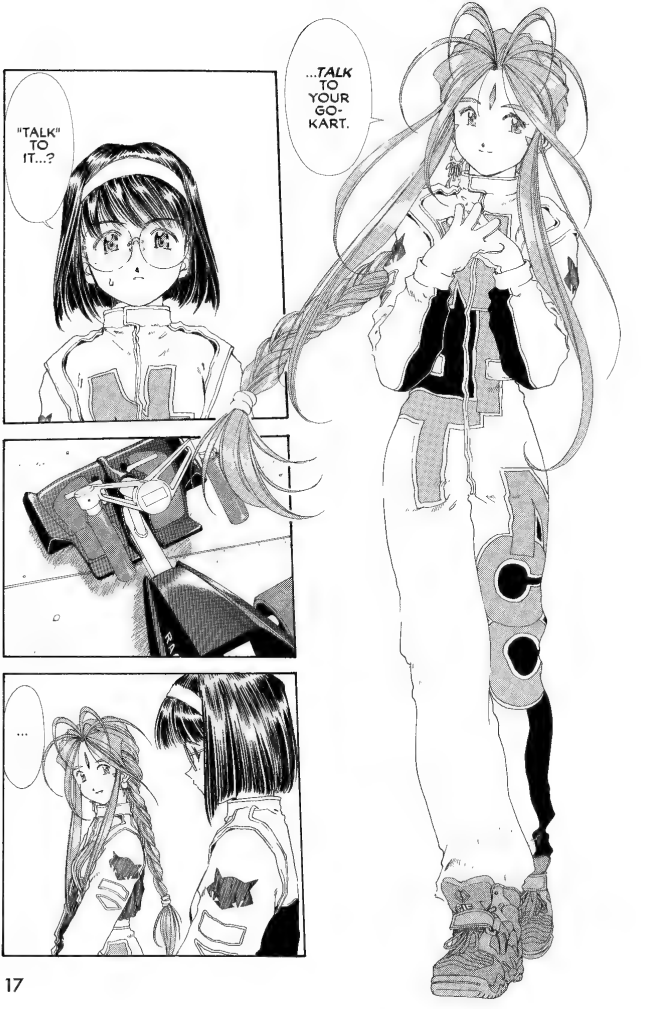
VROOOO

SEEING A BABY RACCOON WOULD BE SO NEAT...

OH, MY GOSH...


!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, DEAR?


LOOK UP, NOW!
AND THEN EVERY-THING'S SCARY.
WHEN YOU ONLY LOOK DOWN, YOU DON'T SEE YOUR WHOLE WORLD.
FEEL THE WIND!
AND ALSO...


"TALK" TO IT...?
...TALK TO YOUR GO-KART.
...

SO! SHALL WE GO FIND THAT OWL?
OKAY!
READY TO HEAD BACK ...?

SEM-PAI ...?
I, UM...
...IS IT OKAY IF I TRY IT SOLO?
YES, DEAR. OF COURSE.
haa

BRRM
BAAAN

THIS IS ACTUALLY *FUN!*
BELL-DANDY! I CAN FEEL THE WIND...
TALK TO YOUR GO-KART.
UM, HELLO? CAN YOU HEAR ME...?

AM I, UH, WORTHY ...?
...MAY I DRIVE YOU?
GO-KART...
I..
...I can't say yet!
BWAHH

AW-RIGHT, HASE-GAWA!
LOOK! HASEGAWA IS SOLOING!
PUFF PUFF PUFF PUFF
WOO-HOO! WE'RE SAVED!
YOU CAN STOP, TOO?
HEH-HEH... SORRY. I FORGOT TO STOP.

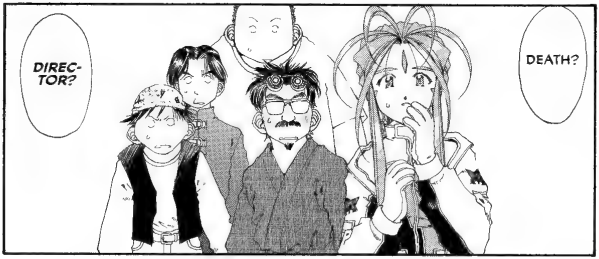
WELL, HASEGAWA-SAN?
THE GO-KART DIDN'T ANSWER ME...
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?
...BUT I DID SEE THE MAMA AND HER BABY!
DIDN'T *ANSWER* HER?
MAMA? BABY?

I... I THINK I CAN DO IT!
おお…
oooooo…!!
EXCELLENT! HASEGAWA WILL WIN-- AND LOSE!
HUH?
HASE-GAWA-SAN?
GOLLY... THANKS FOR NOTHING, GUYS.
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL!
HASEGAWA

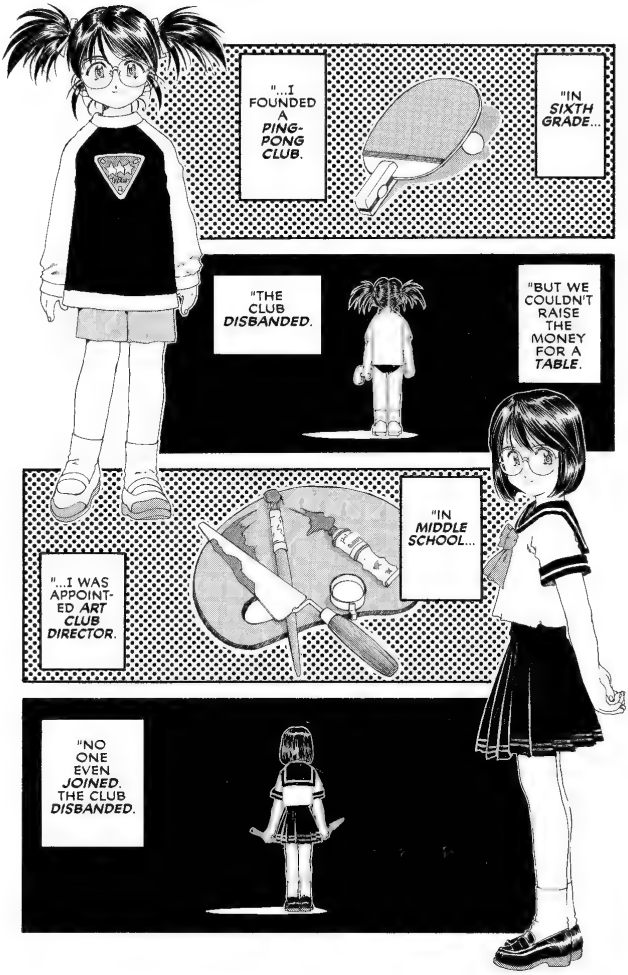
I...
...WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO BE THE DIRECTOR, DEAR?
BECAUSE...
...
...IF I *AM*, I'LL *KILL* THE MOTOR CLUB.

YES...
MISS BELLDANDY... DO YOU REMEMBER MY NICK-NAME?
EH ...?
..."HASEGAWA, THE *CHEF ASSASSIN*."
AND I HAVE *ANOTHER* NICK-NAME...
RIGHT.

"...THE ANGEL OF DEATH."
"DIRECTOR HASE-GAWA...


DIREC-TOR?
DEATH?

"...I WAS MADE DIRECTOR OF HOME-ROOM NO. 2, GROUP SIX.
DIRECTOR HOMEROOM 2 GROUP 6
"I STILL REMEMBER WHEN, IN *THIRD GRADE*...
"...AND THEN ALL BUT *ONE* OF THE OTHER STUDENTS TRANSFERRED...
...
"AND *GROUP SIX* WAS *DISBANDED*."
"SO WE WERE SENT TO *GROUP FIVE*."


"IN SIXTH GRADE...
"...I FOUNDED A PING-PONG CLUB.
"BUT WE COULDN'T RAISE THE MONEY FOR A TABLE.
"THE CLUB DISBANDED.
"IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
"...I WAS APPOINTED ART CLUB DIRECTOR.
"NO ONE EVEN JOINED. THE CLUB DISBANDED.

"IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GUITAR CLUB."
"...BUT THEN THE VIOLIN CLUB GOT US... DISBANDED."
"I THOUGHT THIS TIME, THIS TIME FOR SURE...
...
I KNOW THAT IF I END UP BEING THE MOTOR CLUB DIREC-TOR...
...THE MOTOR CLUB WILL DIE!

NOT YOU GUYS! NOT AGAIN!
I DON'T WANT TO KILL IT!
sniff
...DON'T YOU?
YOU LOVE THE MOTOR CLUB...

こくん
nod

CHAPTER 122

Continued Special Training

ARE YOU SLACKING--
K1 ...?
BRITTEN
--OFF?

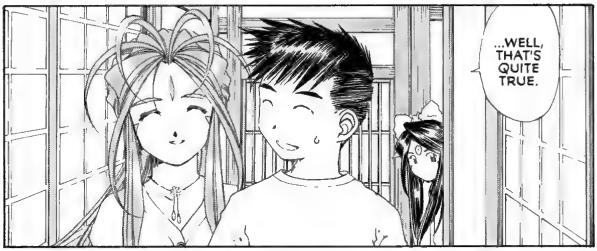
...I'M IM-PRESSED!
WORK IS WORK.
RAMEN
OOH, IS SOME-ONE MAD 'CAUSE THEY GOT LEFT OWWW-OOT!
NO, SOME-ONE IS NOT!
RED... YELLOW... BLACK...
RAMEN
PIPIPI PIPI PIPIPIPI PIPI
PIPIPI PIPI PIPI

BUT THE ENGINE'S RUNNING SMOKY...
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
...
PUFF PUFF PUFF
NOPE.
YOU JUST PARK IT?
BRITTEN
もわ～っ
BROOSH

*New engines should be broken in before a competition. If there is no time to actually drive the vehicle around, this can be done by running it static but "rich," meaning with a higher ratio of fuel to air than you would use in normal driving.

I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO DO, TOO!
I...! UM... NOTH-ING!
LIKE WHAT?
NOTH-ING! NUTTIN'!
...
WEL-COME HOME, KEIICHI!
HELLO!

HOW DID HASE-GAWA DO ..?
I'M SORRY I LEFT EARLY.
NO PROBLEM. THE SHOP CLOSED EARLY, TOO.
YOU ARE HER RIVAL, AFTER ALL.
NOW, KEIICHI... THAT'S SECRET.


...WELL, THAT'S QUITE TRUE.

WHAT'S A SECRET?

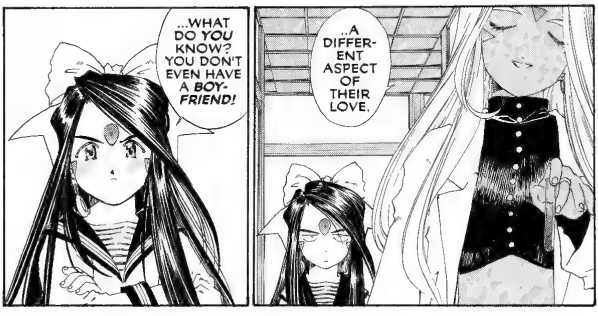
You WHAAAT ?!

I'M RACING HASE-GAWA, AND BELL--

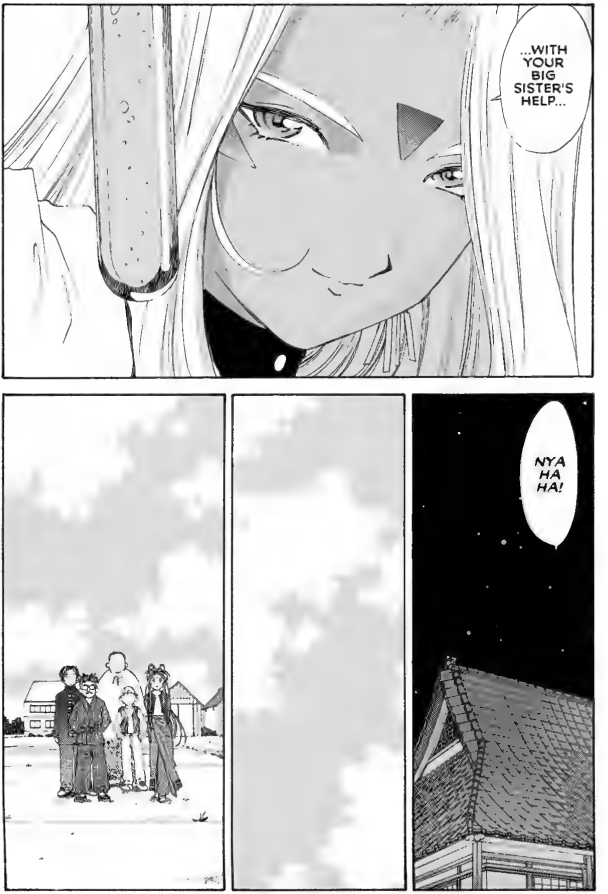
CAN YOU KEEP IT DOWN?
I'M AT A DELICATE PART OF--
SO WHAT?!
KEIICHI'S RACING BELL-DANDY !!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, SKULD.
BUT...
HE CAN'T RACE HER! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
DOGS AND CATS LIVING TOGETHER! TOTAL CHAOS!
IT'S KEIICHI AND HASEGAWA WHO ARE RACING.
I KNOW, BUT...
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, SKULD...
IF THESE TWO...

...IT WILL ONLY LET THEM SEE...
...ARE *RIVALS* FOR A WHILE...


...WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A *BOY-FRIEND!*
...A DIFFER-ENT ASPECT OF THEIR LOVE.

ベリ
ベリ
URD'S YOUR BIG SISTER, ALL RIGHT.
A *REALLY* DIFFERENT ASPECT...
HEH HEH HEH.
URD'S CASTLE

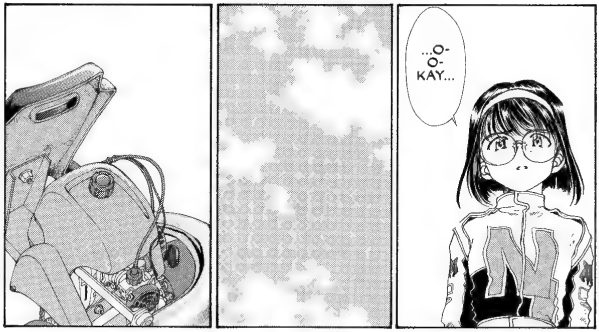

...WITH YOUR BIG SISTER'S HELP...
NYA HA HA!

BWAAA
SHE ISN'T HALF BAD.

?
COULD YOU HELP, PLEASE ...?
EVERY-ONE?
...
DUDE, SHE MIGHT WIN!
BWAAA...
HASE-GAWA-SAN ...?
I MIGHT EVEN BE GOOD AT THIS...
I'M ACTU-ALLY DRIV-ING!

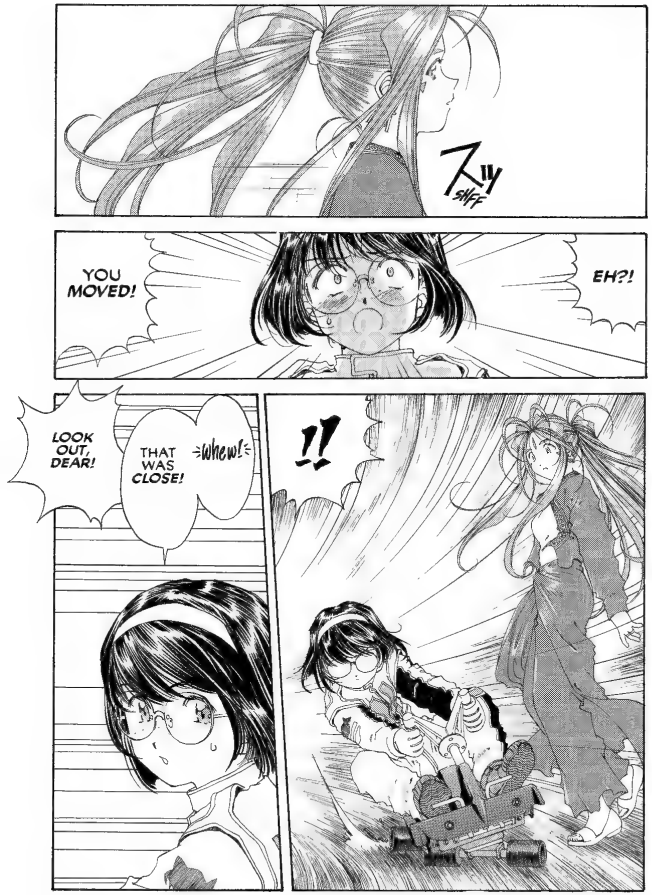
...DO WHAT?
...

ON THE GO-KART?! WHY DO I NEED TO DO THAT?
YEAH, WHY?
BECAUSE YOU NEED THIS SKILL, DEAR.
WEAVE THROUGH US!


...O-O-KAY...

HERE I COME...

BWAAAAA


スッ
SHIFT
YOU MOVED!
EH?!
LOOK OUT, DEAR!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
whew!
!!

GYAHH!

haa
haa
hahh
haa
NO! AWAY! KEEP AWAY!
AIEEE!
HAHH HASE-GAWA! BRAKES!
ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE?
EH?

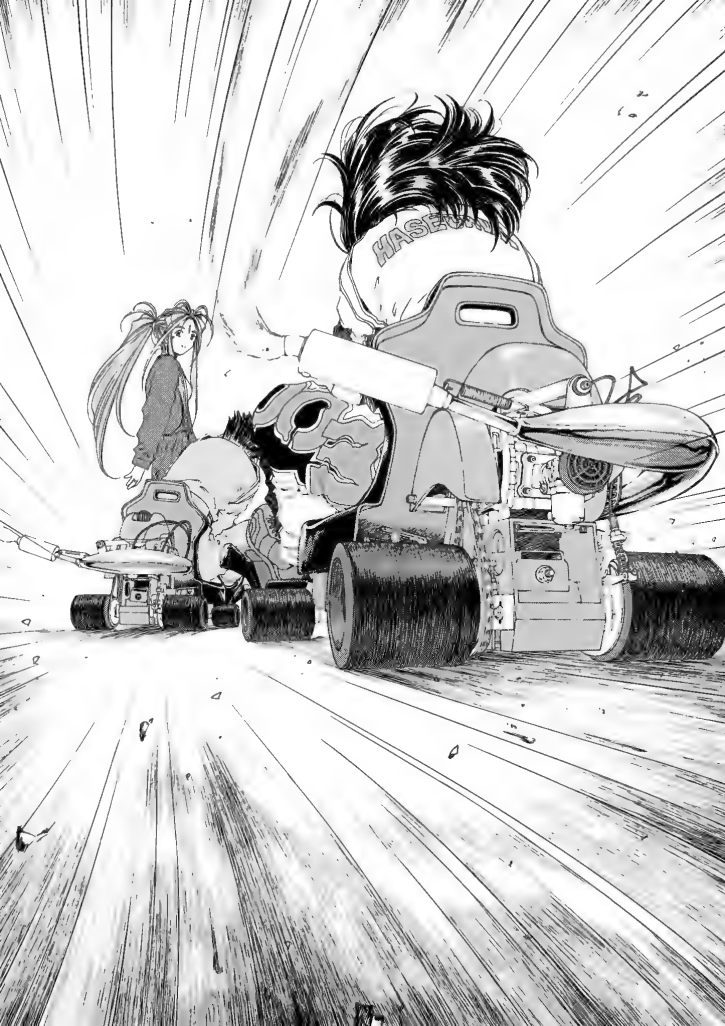
ONCE AGAIN?
PLEASE?
O-KAY.
O-KAY.

EVERY-ONE'S READY FOR YOU, DEAR.
I'LL DIVE BEHIND HIM FOR COVER...
WHAT A DUMB WAY TO DIE...
DON'T KILL US, HASE-GAWA.
READY TO RUN AWAY, I HOPE...
BRAAA
BRAAA
BWAAA!!

WOOOO-HOO! CATCH ME BEFORE MY LUNCH BREAK'S OVER, HASEGAWA!
ZIP
SKREEE

HASEGAWA-SAN! STICK TO KEIICHI!

AHH ...!
...YES, MA'AM!


HASEGAWA

CHAPTER 123

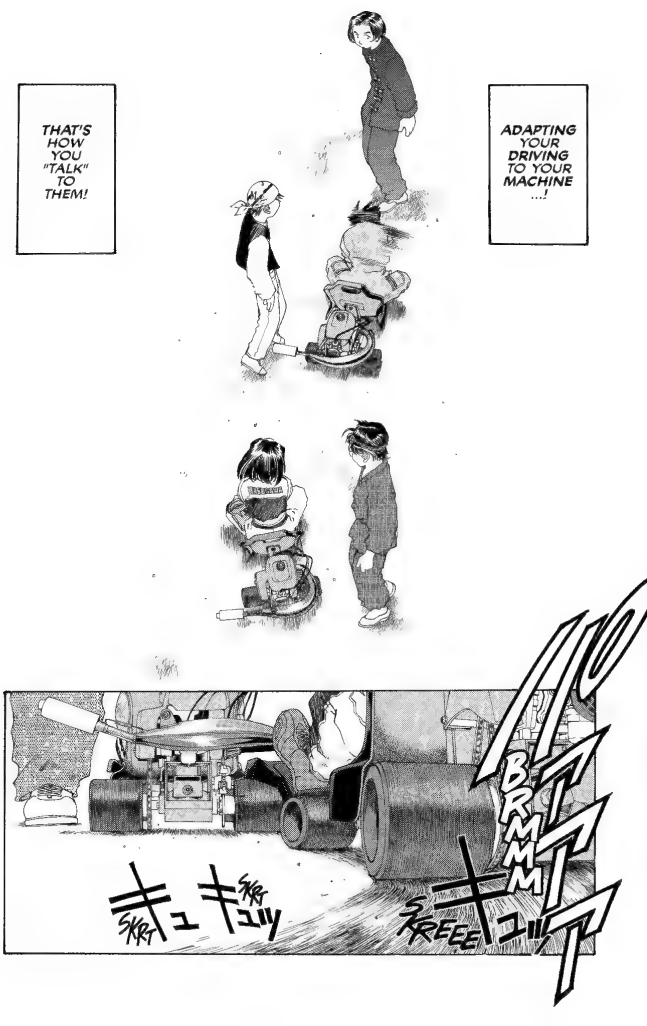
Shall We Race Together?

DO YOUR BEST, DEAR!
COME ON, HASEGAWA!
YES, MA'AM!

KASEGUMI
BYAAAAAN
ドアアアアア

VVSSH
スゴッ
SKIT
SKEE

BWAAN
I GET IT ...!
HE'S FEELING HIS KART'S MOVE-MENTS...
...THEN MAKING HIS OWN MOVES!
SCREE


THAT'S HOW YOU "TALK" TO THEM!
ADAPTING YOUR DRIVING TO YOUR MACHINE ...!
キュキュッ
BRMMM
SCREEE

HUH?
OH ...!
...
SHE'S KEEPING UP!
SKREE
EMP
YES!

SKREEK
BRRMM...

ABOUT TALKING TO MY MACHINE!
I *GET* IT NOW!
SEMPAI!
...!
HASE-GAWA! ARE YOU--
THAT'S *WONDERFUL*, HASEGAWA-SAN! I KNEW YOU WOULD.

YEAH! YOU KEPT UP WITH THE DIRECTOR!
HASE-GAWA! YOU WERE AWESOME!
I WAS?
...SHE REALLY DID MEAN I SHOULD TALK TO IT...?
I TOLD YOU SHE'D UNDER-STAND, DIDN'T I...?
WE TOTALLY UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU!
YOU'RE, LIKE...AN UNDIS-COVERED TALENT...!
GOSH...
YOU MIGHT REALLY WIN AT THIS RATE!
HUH! YOU SURE DID, DIDN'T YOU? I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL UP TO SPEED NOW!
HUH?
HUH?

DUDE... INSTANT DIVA...
HUH?!
OH, DEAR...
...COULDN'T YOU TELL...
...THAT KEIICHI WAS HOLDING BACK...?
ONE MORE TIME!
C'MON--
A MOMENT PLEASE, HASEGAWA-SAN.
I HAVE JUST ONE MORE REQUEST...

..LIKE, WHY CARPEN-TRY...?
DUDE...
N.F. MOTOR CLUB
...

...DO ALL THE WORK FOR ME.
I CAN'T JUST CAN'T LET THE REST OF THE TEAM...
HM?
I'D LIKE TO HELP.
YOU'RE THE *DRIVER*. YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
YES, I *DO*.
NO, REALLY. IT'S...
WHIFF!
ドン!

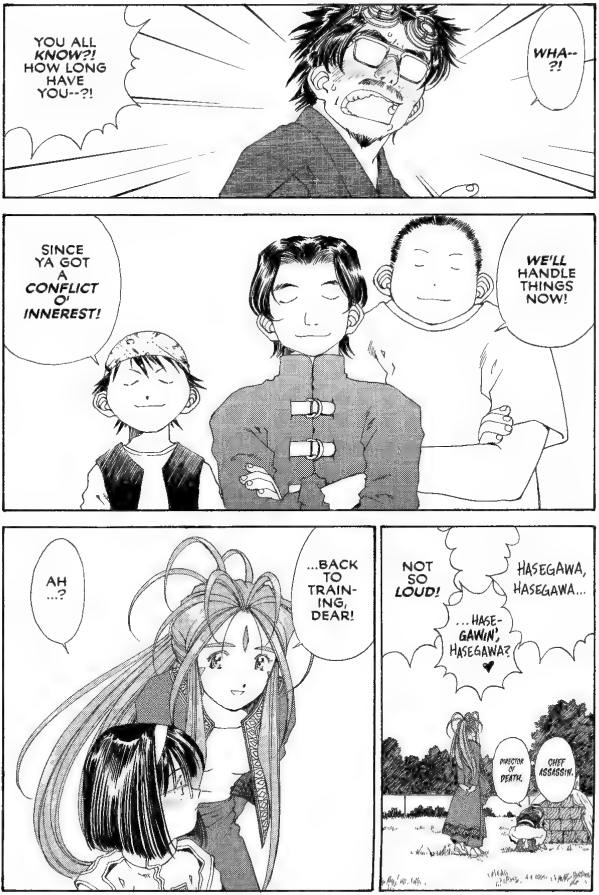
EH?
ドスッ!
OOK
...
OH...
YOU... ARE... A C-CARPENTER FROM HELL...

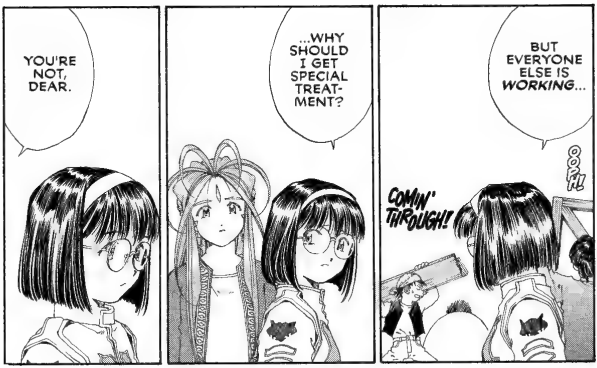
OH, MAN. NOT *AGAIN*.
A WIG! DOOM ALL WHO KNOW HE...
IT'S THERE...

WHAT?
HEY...

HM...
YEAH, LIKE, WHY *NOT?*
WHY ARE WE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS? JUST LET HER BE OUR DIRECTOR.

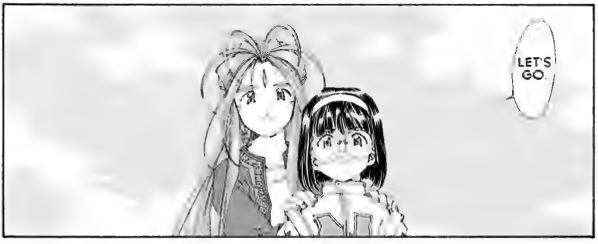
SHE'S ALREADY GOT *SO MANY* RESPONSI-BILITIES. I DIDN'T...
HUH?
...I'M *PATHETIC*.
KNEW IT.
DUDE *DIGS* HER.


YOU ALL KNOW?! HOW LONG HAVE YOU--?!
WHA--?!
SINCE YA GOT A CONFLICT O' INNEREST!
WE'LL HANDLE THINGS NOW!
AH ...?
...BACK TO TRAIN-ING, DEAR!
NOT SO LOUD!
HASEGAWA, HASEGAWA...
...HASE-GAWIN', HASEGAWA?
PHOTON OF DEATH.
CHIST ASSASSIN.


YOU'RE NOT, DEAR.
...WHY SHOULD I GET SPECIAL TREAT-MENT?
BUT EVERYONE ELSE IS *WORKING*...
COMIN' THROUGH!
OOF!

WHEN YOU DRIVE, YOU'RE FULFILLING YOUR DUTY...
YOU'RE GETTING SPECIAL *DUTIES*. IT'S YOUR DUTY TO *TRAIN*.

...AND WORKING AS PART OF THE *TEAM*.


LET'S GO.

BWAAA
BWAAAAAAAN

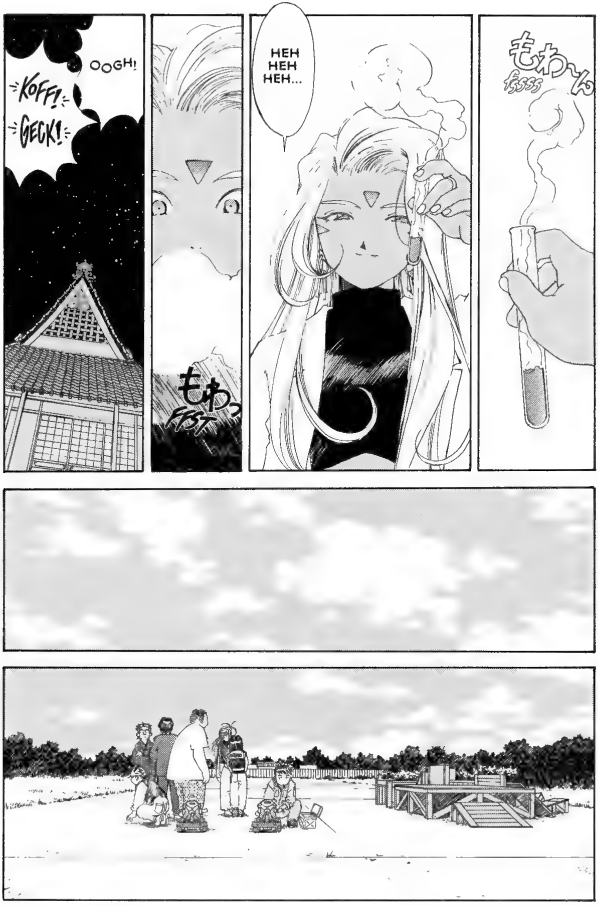
IKKI TOU

ポウ
ポウ
ポウ..

...MAYBE YOU HAD YOUR OWN REASONS.
I WASN'T
GEE, YOU'RE PUTTING ME ON THE SPOT...
THANK YOU FOR HELPING THIS AFTER-NOON.
YOU HELPED US THANK YOU
BUT DOES IT *MATTER?*

...YOU'RE WEL-COME

WEIRD-OES.
HIGH SPEED GEAR
BIG SIS, KEIICHI... BOTH OF THEM.
BUT...
...THERE'RE WEIRDER ONES OUT THERE.


OOGH!
KOFF!
GECK!
もわっ
FSST
HEH HEH HEH...
もわ～ん
fssss

IT'S RACE DAY! READY?
YES, MA'AM!
WHAT'S THAT FOR ...?
I NEED YOUR EARS, K!!
YES'M! MY EARS!
START LINE, HERE.

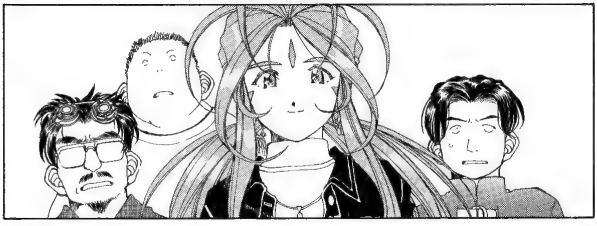
GOAL LINE, PARKING LOT.
YOU HAVE TO PASS ALL THREE CHECK-POINTS...
...TAKING ANY ROUTE YOU WANT BETWEEN THEM!
CHECK POINT
1
2
3
!
ANY ROUTE?! YOU KNEW!
KNEW WHAT?

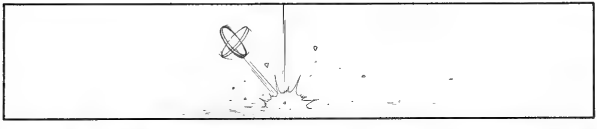
DRIVERS! START YOUR ENGINES!
...BECAUSE IT'S CHIHIRO'S KIND OF RACE.
BE-CAUSE...
BUT... HOW'D YOU KNOW?
SO TRUE!
BRM
BRM
BRM
BRM

WHEN THE COIN HITS THE GROUND, KIDS.
...
HASE-GAWA-SAN...
?

...YES!
LOVE
TWANG

ブンブン
MASSEAU

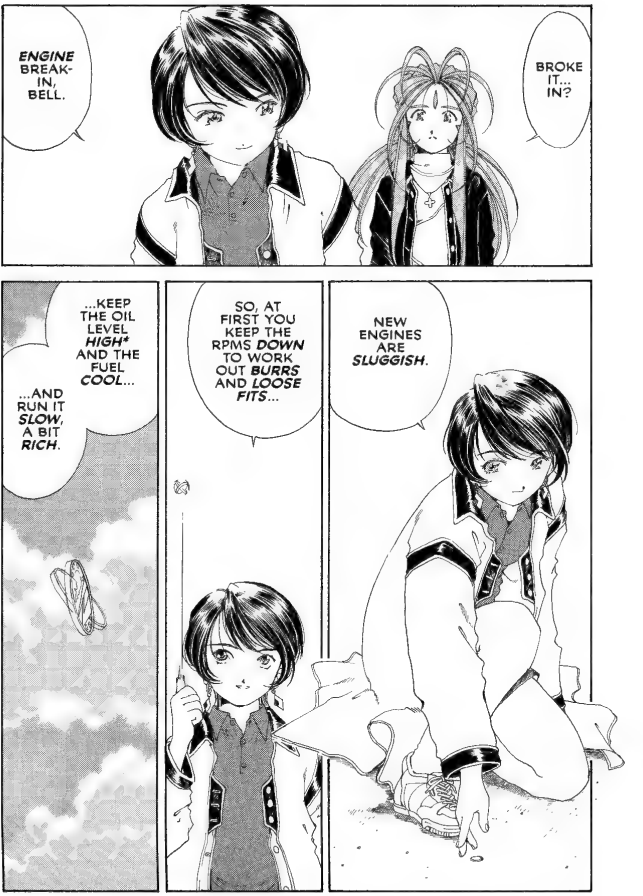




CHAPTER 124

Keiichi's Distance, Hasegawa's Distance

WOW! AN EVEN START!!
BWAAAAA
K1 BROKE HIS IN.
HOW ...?
HUH? BUT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAME!


ENGINE BREAK-IN, BELL.
BROKE IT... IN?
...KEEP THE OIL LEVEL HIGH* AND THE FUEL COOL...
...AND RUN IT SLOW, A BIT RICH.
SO, AT FIRST YOU KEEP THE RPMS DOWN TO WORK OUT BURRS AND LOOSE FITS...
NEW ENGINES ARE SLUGGISH.

*Prevents the oil from burning and caking. Unnecessary in automobiles.

BUT WILL IT MAKE A DIF-FERENCE IN THIS RACE?
SO THAT'S WHY KEIICHI DROVE THAT WAY...
...AND THE PARTS FIT PERFECT!
THEN YOU SLOWLY THIN THE FUEL...
パラパラ
DUMB QUES-TION.
WELL, DUH.
...A LITTLE DIFFERENCE GOES A LONG WAY.
BETWEEN IDENTICAL MA-CHINES...

...IF YOU'VE TAKEN THE TIME TO *KNOW* YOUR ENGINE, YOU CAN *TRUST* IT *TOTALLY!*
IT'S LIKE THIS...

ALL THAT TIME...
...
YES'M.
AND *THAT* ISN'T BIG. IT'S *HUGE*.

...KEIICHI, YOU ARE SO AMAZING.
!?

BWAAN
STREET
MORISATO-SEMPAI'S SO *DIFFERENT* WHEN HE'S DRIVING!
LIKE ANOTHER PERSON!

HEH. YOU DIDN'T WASTE *YOUR* TRAINING, HASEGAWA!
THE FIRST CHECKPOINT IS THE *FOUNTAIN*.
CHECKPOINT
A LOOP AROUND *BUILDING THREE* WILL TAKE ME RIGHT THERE!
GRRRRRR
SKREE

BWAAA
HEH HEH! I DIDN'T *THINK* SHE COULD KEEP UP...
ちらっ glance
BRMM

BRM
BRM
BRM
I-
IT'S...
...TAMIYA
?!
CHECK
1

じゃば SPLSSH
じゃば SPSSH
…
…
ﾌﾞﾝ BRM BRM
ﾌﾞﾝ BRM
777
…
…
…
…JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT, TAMIYA.

にゃっ
FLAP
STAMP, PLEASE!
きょう
HRM!
CHECK POINT
1

THANK YOU!
♥
HASEGAWA!
EH?
HOW DID?!
TOO FAST!
GAVE IT TO HER!
WHY?
は
gasp!

UH... PLEASE! STAMP! STAMP, PLEASE!
HRM.
SQUEEE

WHOOSH
ESPON
MJ 710
YUP
風商
SLIP
MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED?

BWAAAAA
HRRG...
...OKAY, THE STUDENT CO-OP IS NEXT...
LURCH
EEK! HE ALREADY CAUGHT ME!

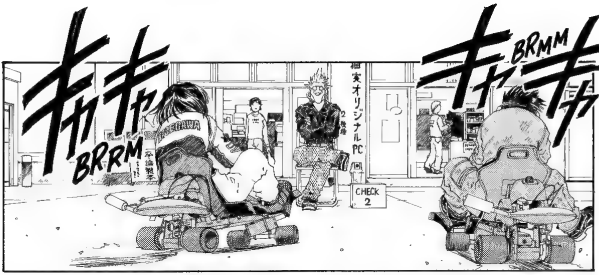
BRMM
BRRM
BWAAAAAN
RACING TOKYO

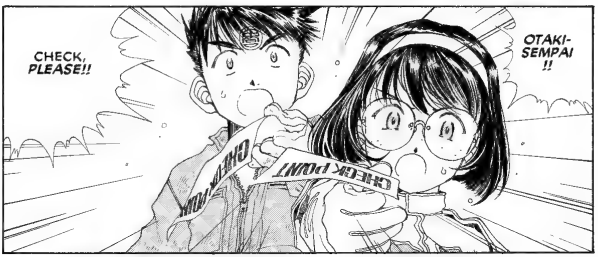
MORISATO-SEMPAI MEANS IT...!
ぶるっ
Shiver
SEGAWA
PUSH
BRAAAA

BRR
RM-
BWAAAAN
BUT DID I SHAKE HER ...?
YESSS! CO-OP DEAD AHEAD!

そよっ
whirl
ほっ
whirl
ピアア
BRRT
アアアBRAAAAAAアアア

BRMMAAAA
楽器セール・中古CD
MTTドモコ携帯フェア
猫実オリジナルPC
2階
卒論製本
CHECK
2


キャキャ
BRRM
CHECK 2
キャキャ
BRMM


CHECK, PLEASE!!
OTAKI-SEMPAI !!
CHECK POINT

POP
ぽん
ポン
CHECK POINT
YEAH.

BRAAAAAAA
I AIM TO PLEASE, MA'AM!
WELL DONE, OTAKI!

I DON'T GET IT!
HOW IS SHE KEEPING UP?
I KNOW I TOOK THE SHORTEST ROUTE!
WAIT... THE SHORTEST ROUTE!
NG BOARD

AH--!
...I'VE GOT YOU!!

CHAPTER 125

The Race Gets Hot, a Goddess Gets Hotter!

BRAAAAAAA

SO FAR, SO GOOD, HASEGAWA!
NOW, THE BICYCLE LOT--
--THIS-AWAY!
THAT-AWAY?
!
SKRK!!

SKREEE!
SKREEE
BRRRM

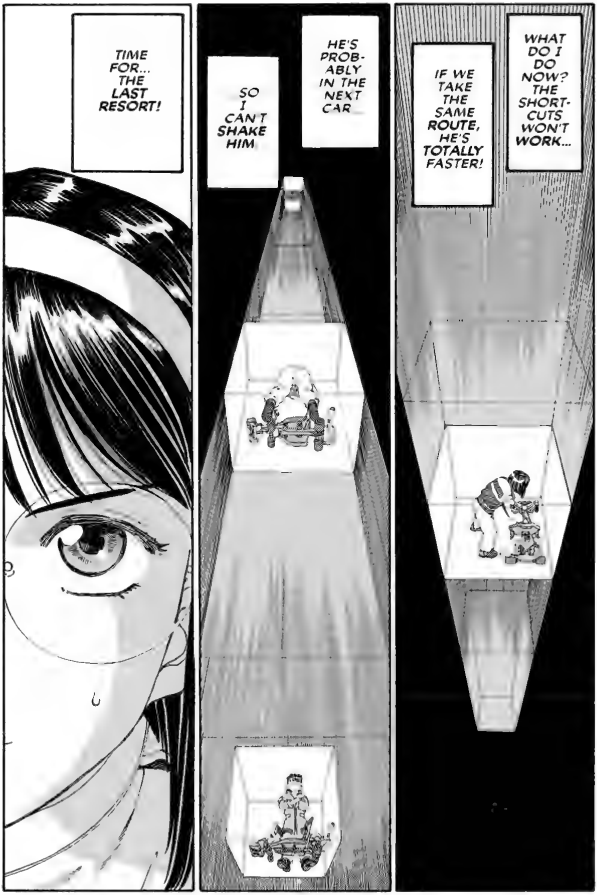
SKRT!!

NOW TO THE THIRD FLOOR...
WHA--! WHAT THE--
CHK
VNNNN

VVVMMM...
BRRRAAA
1·2·3·4·5
dingg
1·2·3·4·5
BWAAAA
EH? IT CAN'T BE HIM!
SHE'S COMING BACK?!
NOW WHAT?
STOMP STOMP

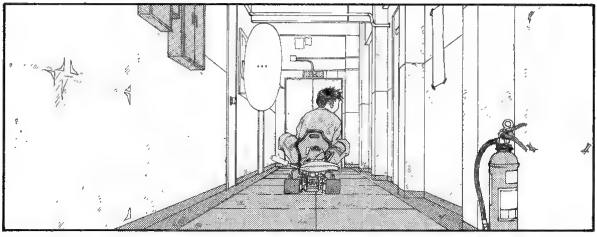
!!
NOOO!
IT IS
HIM!

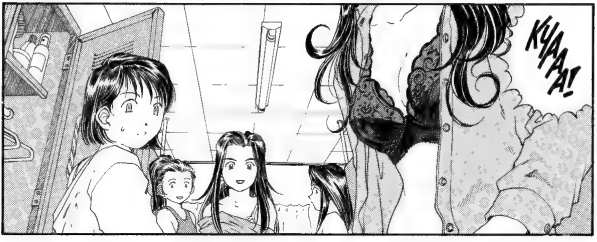
ゴウン
KLONG
HEH!
BUSTED.
ヴヴヴヴヴヴ
VVVMMMM


TIME FOR... THE LAST RESORT!
SO I CAN'T SHAKE HIM.
HE'S PROBABLY IN THE NEXT CAR...
IF WE TAKE THE SAME ROUTE, HE'S TOTALLY FASTER!
WHAT DO I DO NOW? THE SHORTCUTS WON'T WORK...

3
BWAAAAAAM!

HUH ...?
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING ...!
WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM

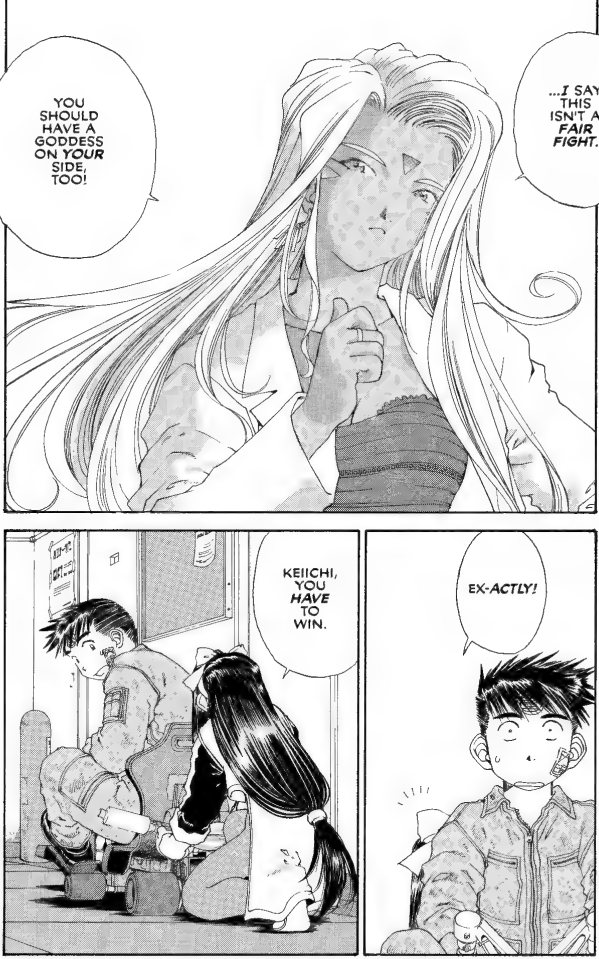

...

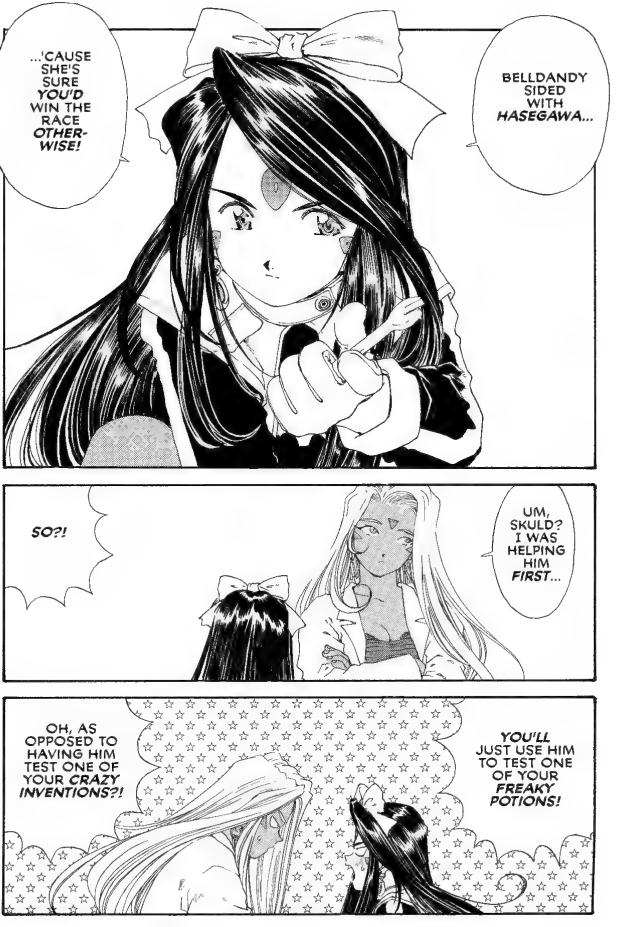

KYAA A!

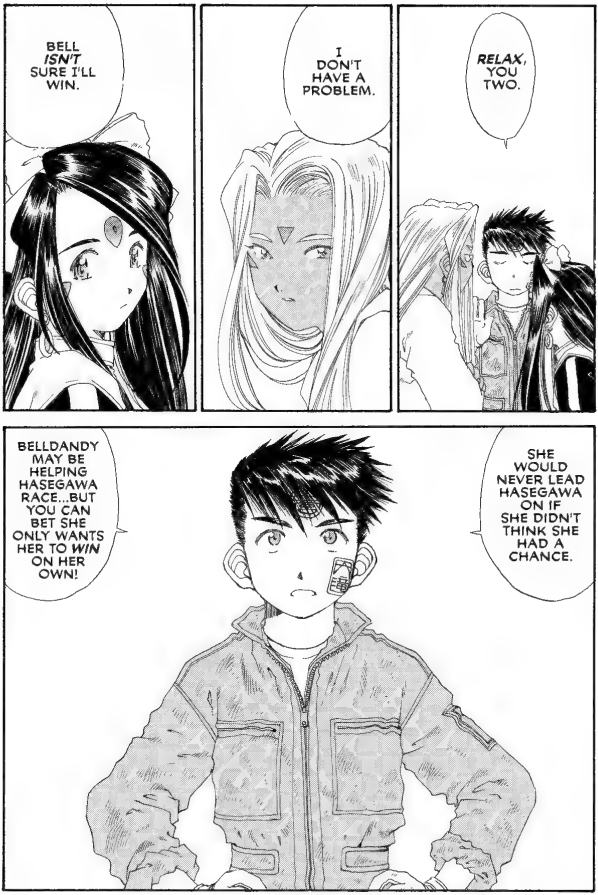
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START CHARGING YOU A TOLL!
SHORT-CUT AGAIN, HASE-GAWA?
MINI GO-KART! I'M IN A HURRY, SORRY!
THAT IS SO CUUUTE! WHAT IS IT?!

WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM
I WONDER HOW MUCH I'D HAVE TO PAY TO GO THROUGH ...?
...ACTUALLY, THE SIGN SAYS THEY'D REMOVE A TREASURED APPEND-AGE...
KEI!CHI! WHAT KIND OF A MAN ARE YOU?!
ばぼーん
BOOOOMF

OKAY! HOW ABOUT A DIS-GUISE? ❤
BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN HONOR. AND APPENDAGES...
AND WHY NOT?
I JUST CAN'T GO THROUGH THERE, OKAY?!
JUST ONE.
YE GODDESSES...
NO, I WANT YOU TO EAT IT. YOU TRY TO HELP...
IT'S DECEPTIVELY CUTE.
YOU WANT ME TO WEAR A MASK FROM SOME MANGA ...?
LOOK, KEIICHI...

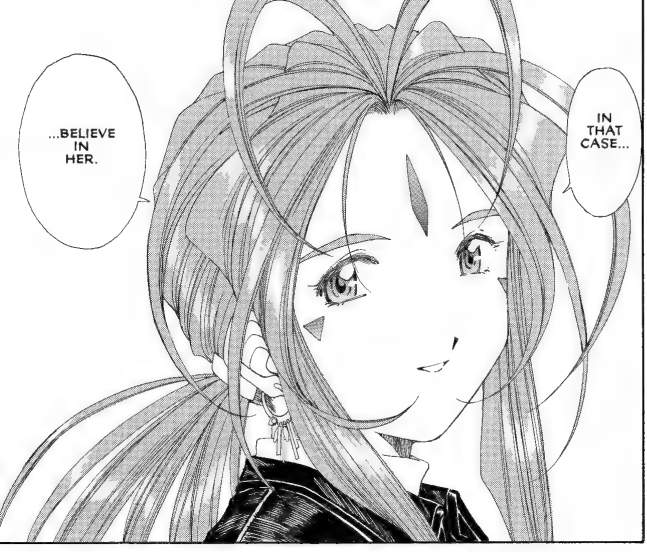

YOU SHOULD HAVE A GODDESS ON *YOUR* SIDE, TOO!
...*I* SAY THIS ISN'T A *FAIR FIGHT.*
KEIICHI, YOU *HAVE* TO WIN.
EX-*ACTLY!*

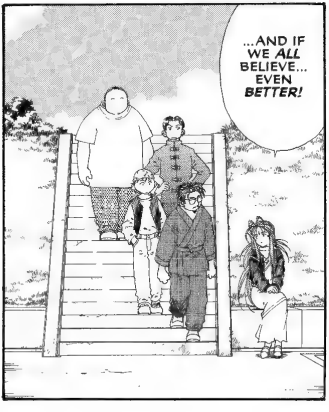

...'CAUSE SHE'S SURE *YOU'D* WIN THE RACE *OTHER-WISE!*
BELLDANDY SIDED WITH *HASEGAWA*...
SO?!
UM, SKULD? I WAS HELPING HIM *FIRST*...
OH, AS OPPOSED TO HAVING HIM TEST ONE OF YOUR *CRAZY INVENTIONS?!*
YOU'LL JUST USE HIM TO TEST ONE OF YOUR *FREAKY POTIONS!*


BELL ISN'T SURE I'LL WIN.
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM.
RELAX, YOU TWO.
BELLDANDY MAY BE HELPING HASEGAWA RACE...BUT YOU CAN BET SHE ONLY WANTS HER TO WIN ON HER OWN!
SHE WOULD NEVER LEAD HASEGAWA ON IF SHE DIDN'T THINK SHE HAD A CHANCE.

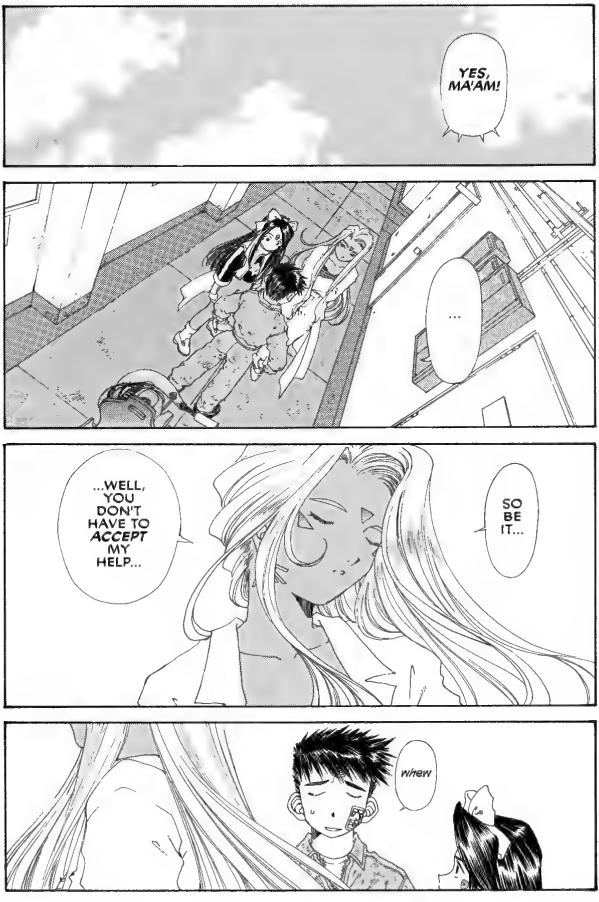
...IS NOT REQUIRED.
AND SO DO I. THEREFORE, YOUR HELP...

DO YOU FEEL SHE COULD?
HASE-GAWA... ...REALLY COULD WIN... COULDN'T SHE?
MISS BELL-DANDY ...?
THE DIRECTOR THING WAS STUPID. I DON'T CARE ABOUT IT ANY-MORE.
I... ...I DON'T KNOW.
THAT'S WHAT I FEEL.
ALL I WANT NOW IS FOR HASEGAWA TO WIN.


...BELIEVE IN HER.
IN THAT CASE...


...AND IF WE *ALL* BELIEVE... EVEN *BETTER!*

HM?
BELIEVE SHE'LL *WIN*...


YES, MA'AM!
...
SO BE IT...
...WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT MY HELP...
whew

...'CAUSE YOU'RE GONNA GET IT ANYWAY!

THE *GODDESS!*

GARAGE

A look at the vehicles owned by each character

女神用語の基礎知識 ガレージ拝見

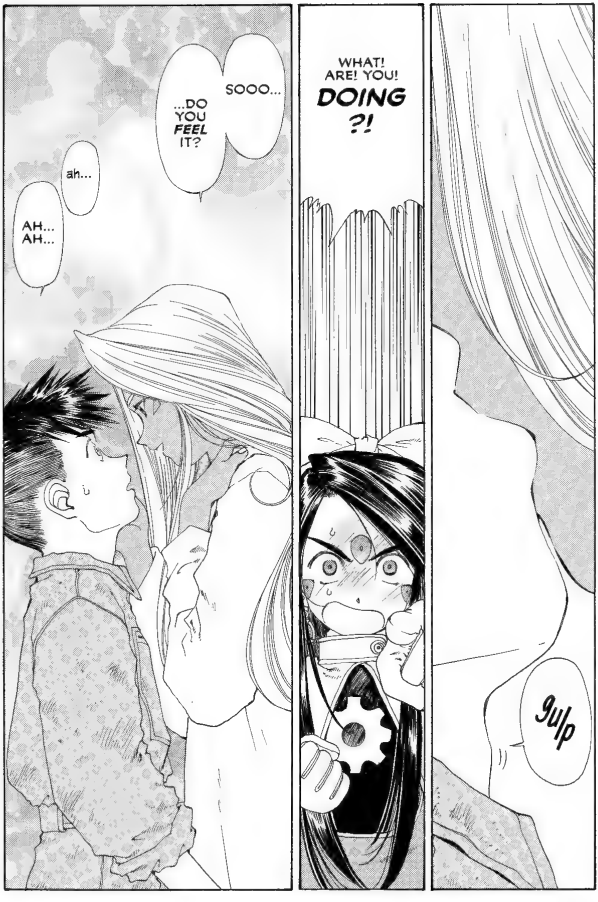
SPECIAL BONUS ARTICLE!

Gilera Runner FXR

Although it doesn't feature in this story, the sleek little moped that Belldandy is riding on the title page of chapter 125 is a Gilera Runner FXR, manufactured by Italian scooter maker Piaggio and first released on the European market in 1997. Kosuke Fujishima comments that Piaggio can be "justly proud of a design sense that sets the Gilera apart from Japanese competitors . . . Over in Europe, where scooter racing's all the rage, you'll even find Gilera cup competitions." And no surprise, since speed and power (rather than handling or reliability) are the Gilera's forte; its 21 horsepower was impressive for its size. The FXR 180 cc had a listed top speed of 137 km/h, and some drivers reported achieving 150!

CHAPTER 126

Kiss Off Course


SOOO...
...DO YOU FEEL IT?
ah...
AH... AH...
WHAT! ARE! YOU! DOING ?!
gulp

BREAK IT UP!
I'LL GIVE YOU EXCITING!
HFF...
...HUFF
...WAS THAT TOO EXCITING FOR YOU?
OH, I'M SORRY...
URD! WHY'D YOU DO... THAT?!
WHY'D YOU... KISS HIM?!
HFF

HFF...
HFF
HFF
HEE HEE HEE!
IT'S WORK-ING...
?
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
SMASH ALL OBSTACLES... FOR YOU NOW POSSESS...
AND SO... CHARGE TO VICTORY!

WOO-
WAOOO!
...URD'S
GUTS
ACCELER-
ATOR!
...
THAT
PART
OF THE
PLAN?
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
...
R!!!GHT...
OH,
TOTAL-
LY!

chuff
CHUF!
chuff
CHUF!
chuff
CHUF!
BRMMBMMBMM
WOO-
WHOOO!

BRAWWW

WHAT NOW?

SHREEK!

WOO-WHOO!

WOO-WHOOO!
YEEEK!
HELLLP!
BRMMBRAAAAA
MOMMY!!
WHUMP
WOO-WHOOO!
BRMMBRAAAAWN

WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTI-TUDE?
WHAT'S WITH THAT SPEED?
YOU DID SOME-THING TO HIS MACHINE!
YOU DID SOME-THING TO HIM!
WHY'D YOU GRAB ONTO ME?!
WHY'D YOU CHANGE THE SUBJECT?!
EX-CUSE ME...

HEE HEE!
HA HA HA!
YES, TO-TALLY.
OH, HA HA HA! DO WE SEEM... SUSPI-CIOUS?
...WHO ARE YOU TWO?
HA!
BOOM!
?!

WHAT A STRANGE PAIR...
...I'VE SEEN THEM AROUND, BUT NEVER IN CLASS...
WHO ARE THEY?
NEVER MIND THEM...
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT...
...DUDE?!
HUH?
THERE WAS A DUDE?
I JUST HEARD A "WOO-WHOO"...
KCHK

IT'S A LOCKER ROOM...
...SO I LOCKED IT!
NOW HE'LL NEVER--
EHHH?!
CHUFF! CHUFF!

IF HE'S ALREADY *HERE*...
HE MUST'VE GONE THROUGH... *THERE?*

SKREEEEET!
...HE'S SO PERVERTED!
AND YET...
HE'S SO DETERMINED!
GRAAAA!!

WHOO-
WHOO!

MORI-
SATO-
SEMPAI!
YOU'RE
GOING--
NO!!

WOO-
WHOO!

ドガ
KA BOOM

What's the number to call? EIGHT-ONE-ONE?!
WHAT should I DEW?!
Nine-one-nine?! NINE-NINE-ONE?!
OH... OH NO. FROM THIS HEIGHT...
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ドシャン
TMP

...
NOW I'VE SEEN EVERY-THING...
WOO-WHOO!
Sha-kin
Sha-kin
Sha-kin

ガラン
KSHANG
ガラン
CHNK
ゴン
THUD

ガリッ

HEY, BELL...
WHATCHA DOIN'...?
URD GAVE YOU ONE OF HER POTIONS...
A POTION?! HOW?
ACK! WHEN SHE GAVE ME THAT INCRED-IBLE--

...AND LIKE I WENT SOMEWHERE I *SHOULDN'T* HAVE...
...AND ...FLYING? YES, *FLYING!* AND...
I REMEMBER FEELING FULL OF *ENERGY*...
WHAT *HAPPENED* ...?!
INCRE-- uh-- *DIBLY* BAD *FEELING*...
...
INCREDIBLE WHAT?
...*LANDING*...

...
...OH.
HOLY BELL SPUN ME AN AIR CUSHION...
THANK YOU.
BUT...

AREN'T YOU TWO...
...ON *HASEGAWA'S* TEAM?
YES.
AND WE STILL *ARE*.
...?
BUT IF YOU'D GOTTEN *HURT*, KEIICHI...
...WHAT WOULD HASE-GAWA HAVE *DONE?*

SHE WOULD'VE *STOPPED* THE RACE, AND...
...OH.
OF COURSE...
...WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM, AREN'T WE?

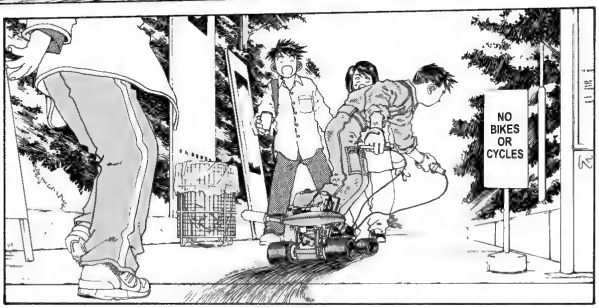
AND I UNDER-STAND NOW.
BELL, YOU'RE AMAZ-ING.
...
SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE.
...I'LL DO MY PART!
SO...

八重
ギリ
ギリ
ギリ

CHAPTER 127

The Best Magic

!!
BWAANNN
grip 4


NO
BIKES
OR
CYCLES

WHAT DID SKULD DO?!
六竜
I CAN BARELY CONTROL THIS LITTLE THING!
SIDE DRIFT? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
ゴゴゴゴゴ
YAAAH!!
IS THAT WHAT HE'S HAVING?
THANKS TO MY MODIFICATIONS, KEIICHI'S HAVING A BALL!
LOOK!

EXCUSE ME?
GUESS YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE IT SO IT STOOD UP TO CLIFFS BETTER.
OH YEAH?! AND WHOSE POTION MADE HIM DRIVE OFF THAT CLIFF?
YOU MADE POOR KEIICHI SUFFER!
SUFFER?
YOU ARE SUFFERING.
VERY WELL, I DID.
BUT KEIICHI THRIVES ON ADVERSITY, THEREFORE--

--I HELPED HIM!
WHAT? LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M YELLING!
パラララ
BWANNN
SKRIIT
TMP

BWAAA
whoosh
BWAAAHH

CHOK
SKRT!

ギュ
ギュ
ギュ

BTHMP
HEH! I'M GETTIN' THE *HANG* OF THIS!
KAHDD

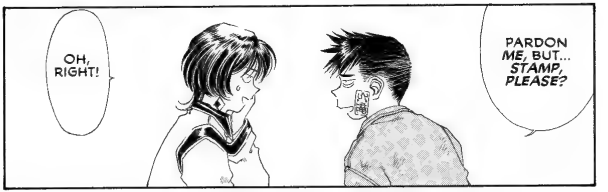
WHEE--
HAW!
STAMP,
PLEASE!
brrrmmm
brrrmmm

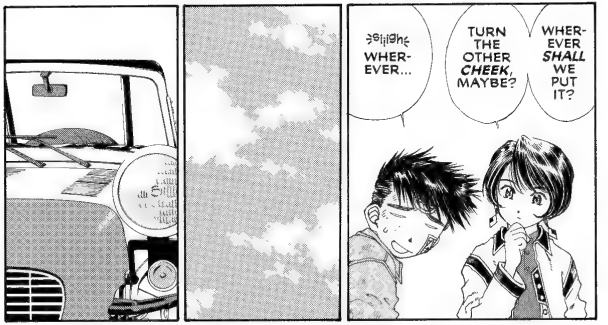
SURE.
ぽん
HASE-GAWA...
THANK YOU, MA'AM!
MORISATO COULD COME FROM *ANYWHERE*.
KEEP YOUR GUARD UP TO THE *VERY END*.

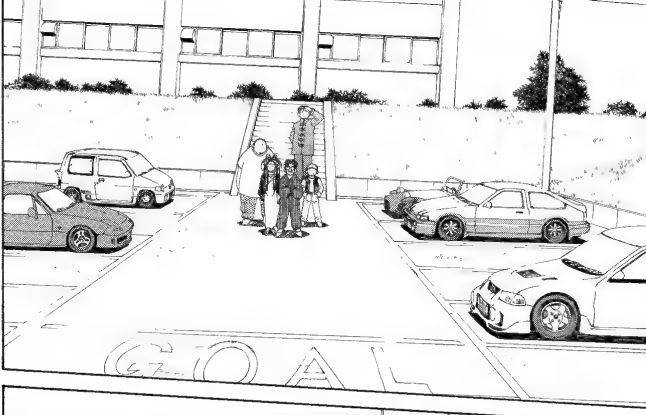
YES, MA'AM.
I KNOW.
I GUESS SHE DOES.
SHE'S KNOWN HIM LONGER THAN I HAVE.
SPEAK-ING OF WHOM...
...WHERE IS HE?
HM ...?
パアアア
BWAAA

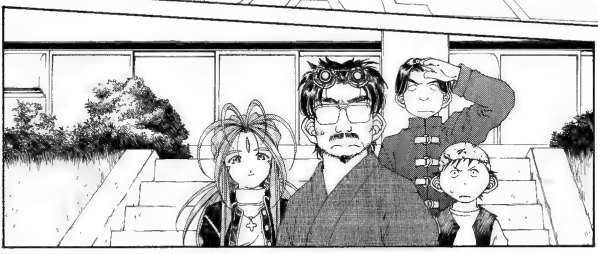
BRRRM
CHIHIRO! STAMP, PLEASE!
!!
MA'AM?
MO... RI... SAAA... TO.
...
IT WAS AN ACT OF GODDESS! I MEAN KISS-- I MEAN--!
AHH! I'M SORRY!

Gulp!
IT'S!
...
SHOULDA KNOWN.
SO!
YOU CAN CONVERT THEM!


OH, RIGHT!
PARDON ME, BUT... STAMP, PLEASE?


WHEREVER...
TURN THE OTHER CHEEK, MAYBE?
WHEREVER SHALL WE PUT IT?


GOAL



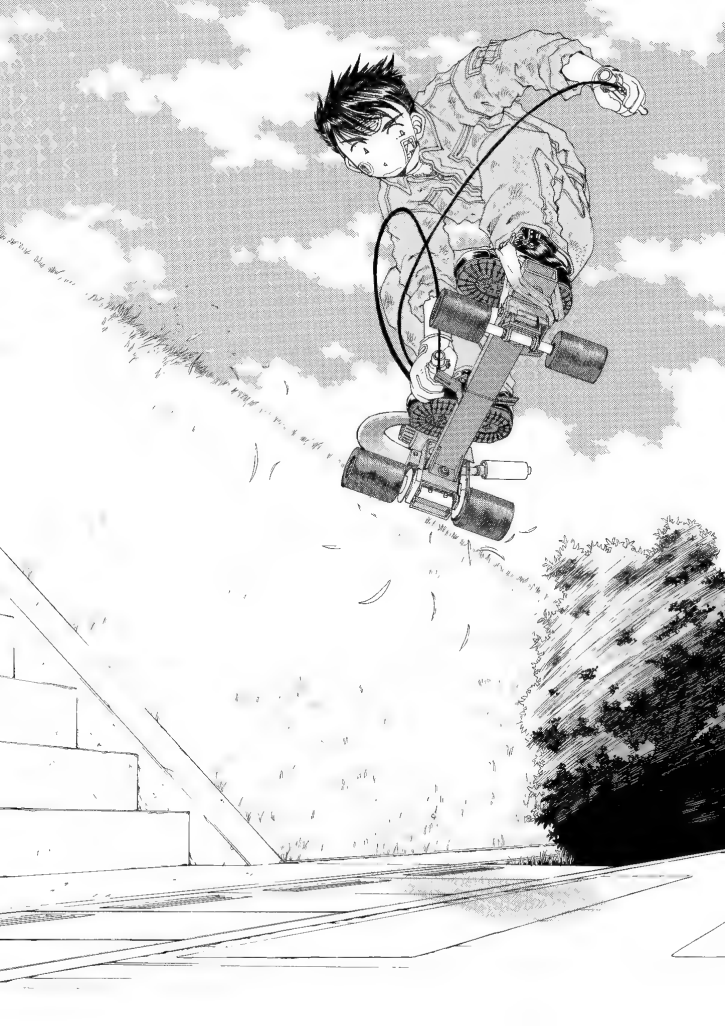
HASE-GAWA'S GOT THE LEAD.
IT'S OKAY.

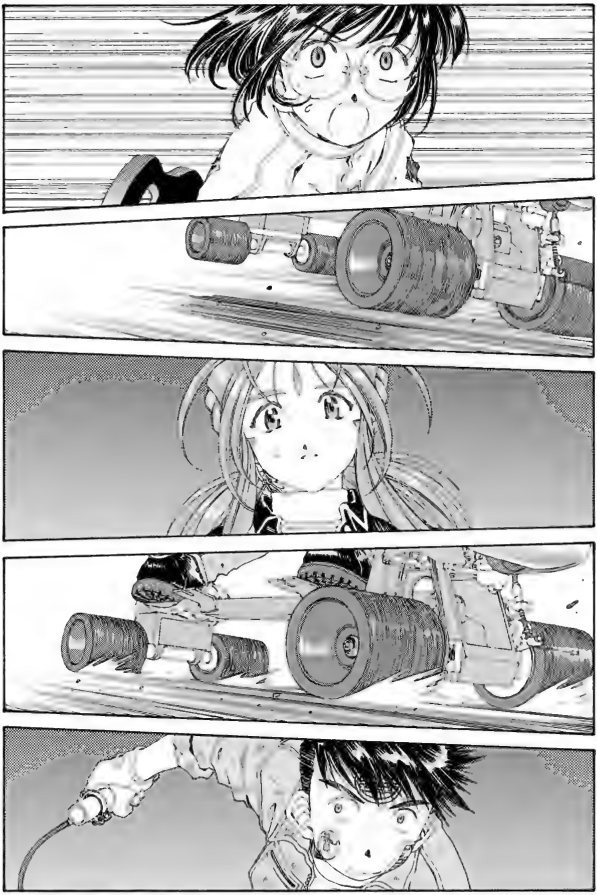
...
AWE-SOME!
A LEAD ON MORISATO!
HE ALWAYS *DOES* LOOK *UN-TROUBLED*, DOESN'T HE?
HEY, DO YOU EVER THINK *ANY-THING*?
BRAAW

20
構内
20
Km
NOT YET...
NO...
IT'S HASEGAWA! SHE DID IT!

HE CAN COME...
...FROM ANY-WHERE!
LEFT?
RIGHT?
HASE-GAWA! UP!

20
構内
20
Km





A
TIE?!

VICTORY, *HASEGAWA*.
NO.

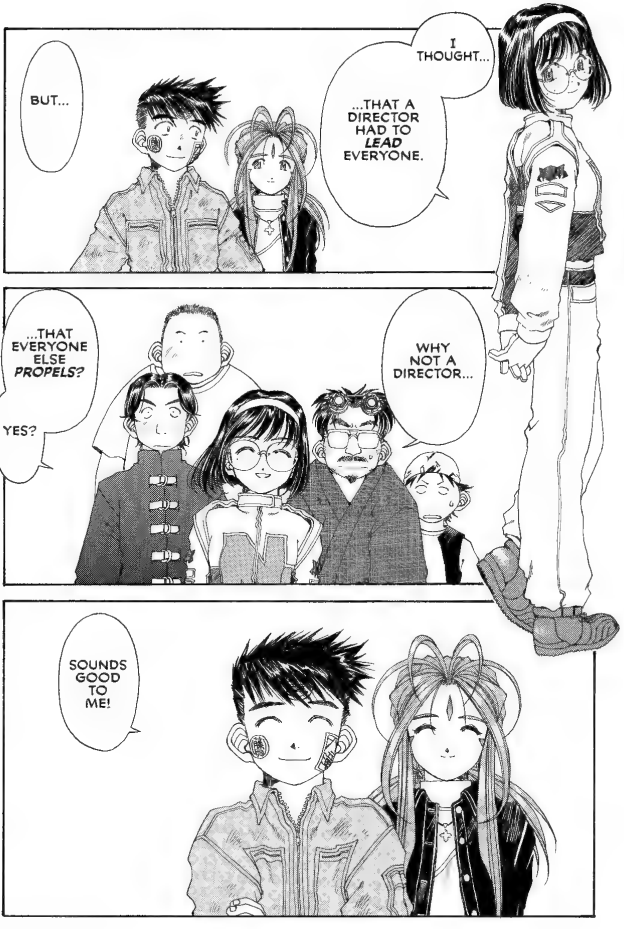
...KEI-ICHI?
RIGHT...
?!

BY THE *TIRES*, YEAH.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A TIE, TOO.

YUP.

SO, HASE-GAWA...
!!
I WAS JUST *THAT* MUCH BEHIND.
I LOST MY *NOSE COWL*.
HUH?
STAY OR GO?
WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?
I WANT...
...

...I WANT TO STAY!
!!


I THOUGHT...
...THAT A DIRECTOR HAD TO *LEAD* EVERYONE.
BUT...
WHY NOT A DIRECTOR...
...THAT EVERYONE ELSE *PROPELS?*
YES?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

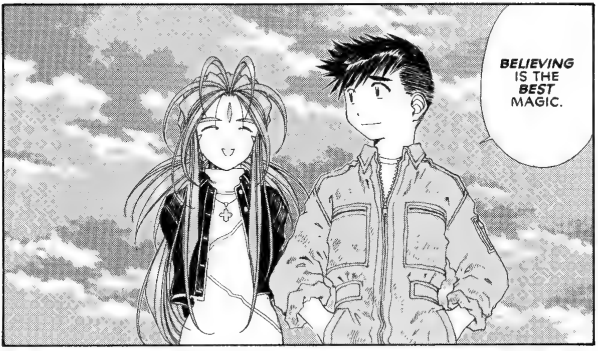
AFTER ALL...
...YOU GUYS *DID* RALLY AROUND HASEGAWA...
...AND YOU MADE YOURSELVES INTO A *TEAM!*
THANKS!
THIS IS ALL *WRONG*.
WHY DIDN'T I *VOLUNTEER?*
IT'S NOT TOO LATE! I CAN--

...YOU'LL ALL HELP ME, WON'T YOU?
WE'D LOVE TO!
WUH?

HOW CAN YOU BE HERE?!
?
YOU WERE AT THE CHECK-POINT!
I DROVE AT FULL SPEED--
--AND TOOK A SHORT-CUT!
SO, THE FASTEST OF ALL...
...WAS CHIHIRO.
OH COME, NOW!
EVEN I HAVE SHORT-CUTS.

YES, KEIICHI?
BELL-DANDY ...?
BACK AT THE STARTING LINE...WHAT DID YOU TELL HASEGAWA?
...

"...YOU ALWAYS HAVE A CHANCE... AS LONG AS YOU NEVER THINK YOU DON'T."
"NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE OPPO-NENT...
NO WONDER SHE WAS SO STRONG!
NOW I GET IT.
AND I TOLD HER, "THAT'S HOW KEIICHI AND I...
..."WIN."


BELIEVING IS THE BEST MAGIC.

"...LOOK FOR OUR SALES REPRESENTATIVES... UNDER THE BANNERS!"
"RACING BOARDS... GRAND PRIX CHAMPS... THRILLS!... FOR GIRLS AND BOYS... GET AROUND CAMPUS FAST!... DEMO RUNS TODAY!
SKSH
?

STEP RIGHT UP...
HERE YOU GO!
旋風商会
SUPAH MUCH!
DANKS Y'ALL!
CHIHIRO FUJIMI, FASTEST OF THEM ALL...
...YOU'RE SCARING THE CUSTOMERS!
旋風商会
COOL POWER BOARD OPTIONS!

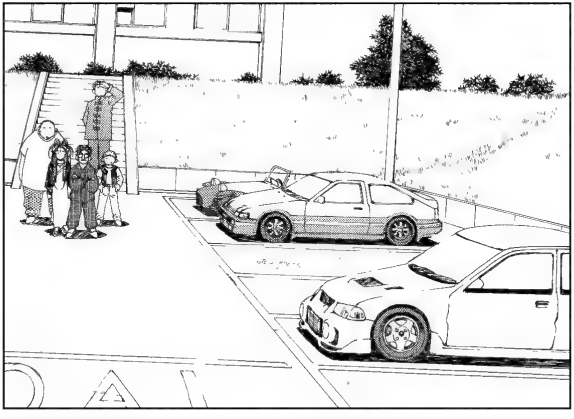
THE *GODDESS!* GARAGE

A look at the vehicles owned by each character

SPECIAL BONUS ARTICLE!

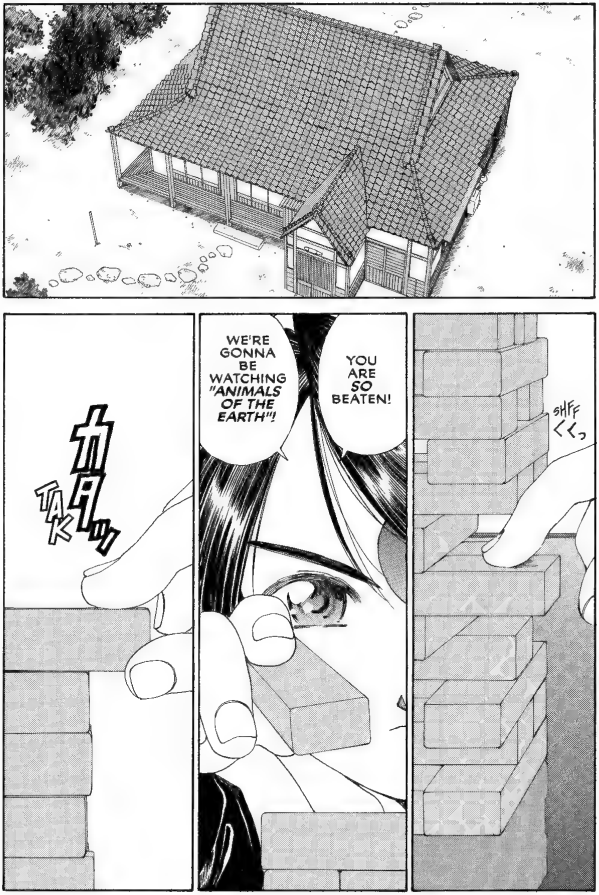
Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IV

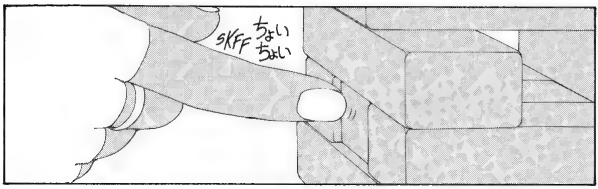
Kosuke Fujishima remarks, "Even at that tense moment in the director race, I hope you took notice of those cars parked near the goal line. Of course, you spotted the Lotus Super Seven in the rear, and the Toyota Sprinter Trueno in front of it. But the car in the foreground—that left-side air scoop? Those slightly drooping headlights? That bumper with the fog lights? It can only be a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IV, made from 1996 to 1998! With 280 horsepower deftly applied via Mitsubishi's Active Yaw Control system, it's little wonder it won the World Rally Championship every year it was made! We call it the Lan-Evo for short in Japan. Ah, how nice to be in Japan, where you can buy a car like this for a reasonable price!" [Note from the English-language editor—the Lancer Evolution IV cost between 2.5 and 3 million yen, depending on type.]

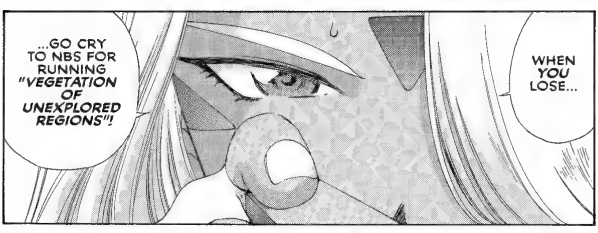


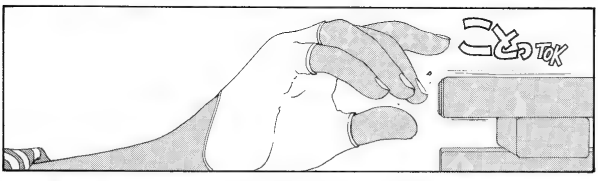
CHAPTER 128

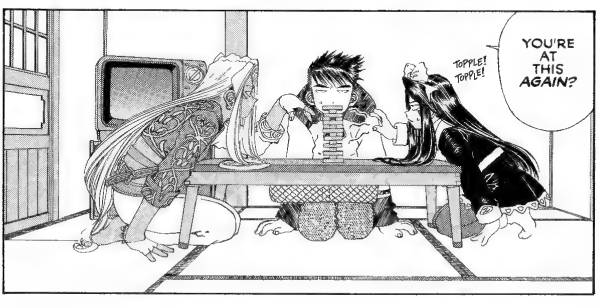
The Endless Battle Part 1


WE'RE GONNA BE WATCHING "ANIMALS OF THE EARTH"!
YOU ARE SO BEATEN!
SHFF
カタッ
TAK


SKFF ちょい ちょい

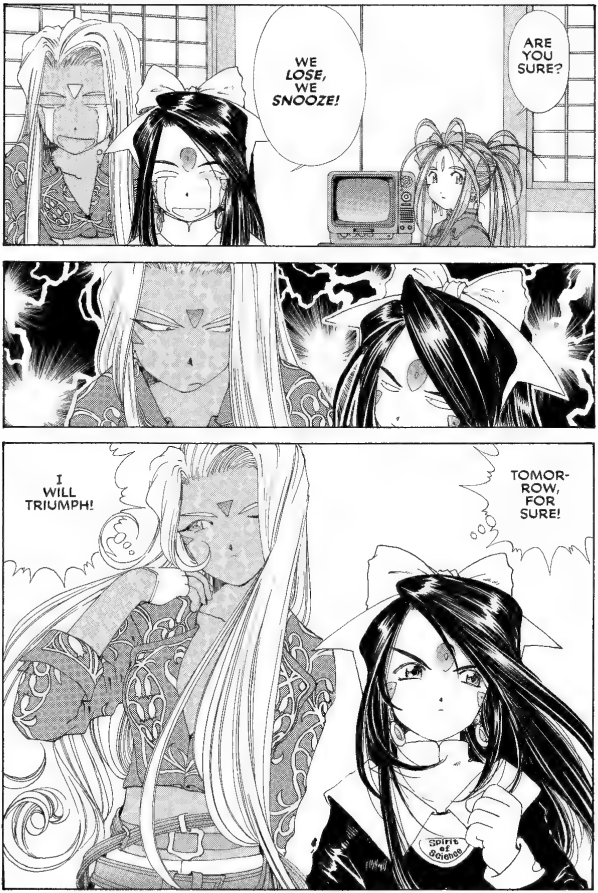

...GO CRY TO NBS FOR RUNNING "VEGETATION OF UNEXPLORED REGIONS"!
WHEN YOU LOSE...


ころ TOK


TOPPLE! TOPPLE!
YOU'RE AT THIS AGAIN?

WELL, EXCUUUSE MY TV!
WATCH TV IN BLACK AND WHITE? WE'D DIE FIRST!
WHY, MOSSS!
ONE OF YOU COULD USE MY TV...
LOTUS
WHEN THE ONIONS ARE TRANSPARENT, STIR IN THE CHASHUU PORK, AND...
WORLD COOKING
JAPAN
YO, BELL! YOU CAN'T JUST WATCH!

Note: This is a special goddess-only move!


WE LOSE, WE SNOOZE!
ARE YOU SURE?
I WILL TRIUMPH!
TOMOR-ROW, FOR SURE!
Spirits of Science

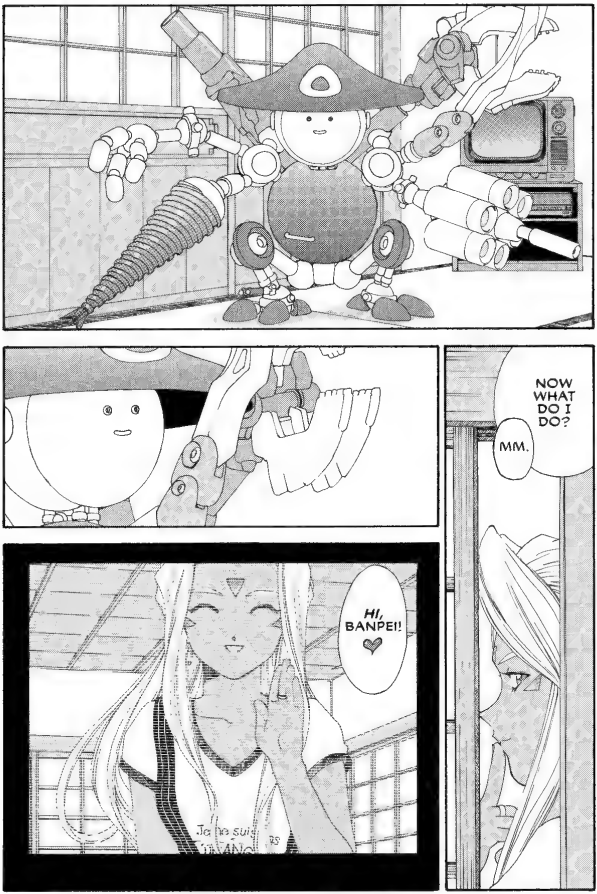
Noise-silencing slippers
MM?
Next morning
NYEE HEE HEE!
High-sensitivity sound collection sensor
I'LL JUST SLAP AN ELECTRONIC LOCK ON THE TV...

トッ
TPP
HA! MADE IT!
WUH--
WUH--
MOUCH!!

I'M OFF TO WATCH MY SOAPS.
YOU LOSE.
HSST!
AWW...
...LOOK WHAT DRAGGED IN THE CAT!
KLIK!
"KLIK"?

WHOOM!
トン
TOMOR-ROW, BY GOD-DESS...
JUST PEACHY.
URD? SKULD? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
WHY NOT?
MAY I WATCH THE TV?

The next day
DRAT!
HIM AGAIN.


NOW WHAT DO I DO?
MM.
HI, BANPEI!

BOOM!!
GOOD... MORNING ...?
Je ne suis pas un ANGE!
KYAH!
YEEK!

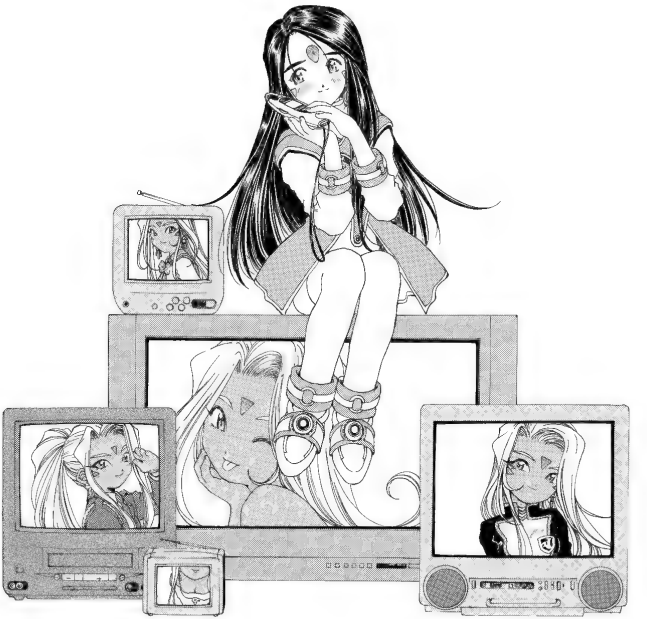
NOT!
MINI-URD MIRV!

HAVE URD AND BANPEI--
SO...

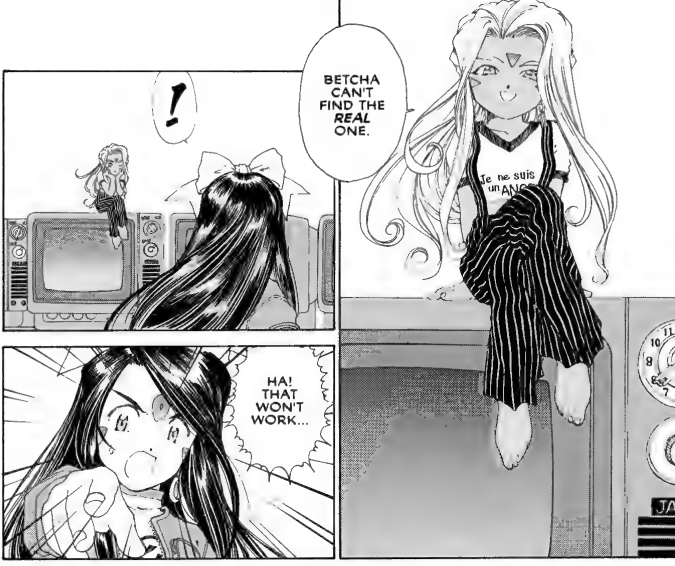
...
EEEEEK!

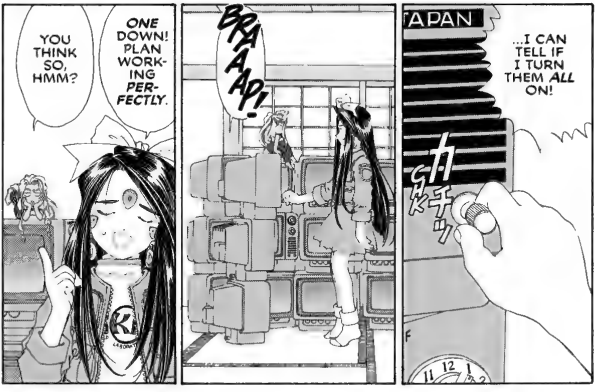
CHAPTER 129

The Endless Battle Part 2



NOOOO!


!
BETCHA CAN'T FIND THE REAL ONE.
Je ne suis
HA! THAT WON'T WORK...


YOU THINK SO, HMM?
ONE DOWN! PLAN WORK-ING PER-FECTLY.
BRAAAP!
APAN
...I CAN TELL IF I TURN THEM ALL ON!

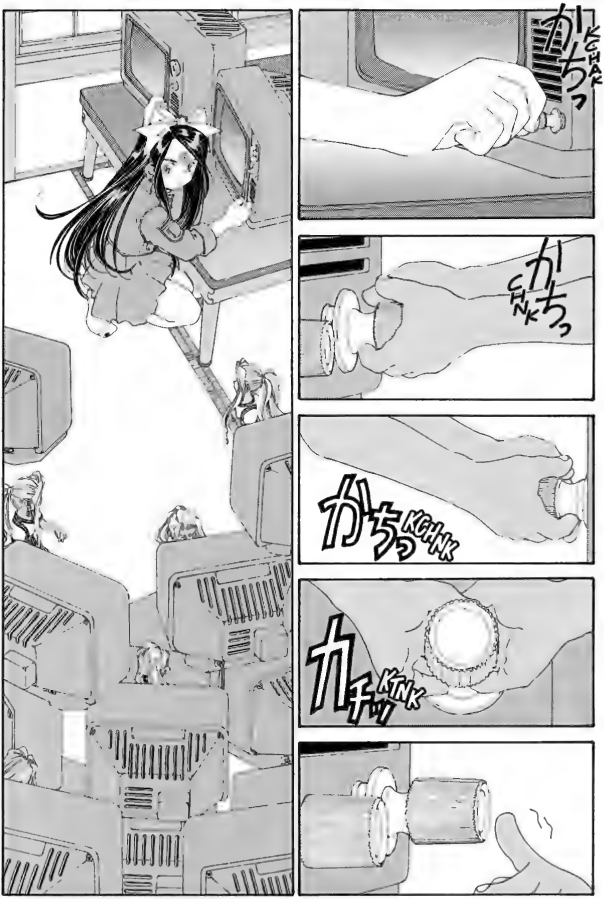
"YURP"
...?
にゅ YURRRP っ
ポン
ニョキ
ニョキ
NAAH
...?!
CHAKAN
CHAKAN
CHAKAN

EVERY TIME YOU TURN ON THE WRONG SET...
...POOF! ANOTHER TELE-VISION APPEARS!
N-NO!
YES!
CHIK
STOP!
CHAKKA
CHAK
CHAK
HO HO HO!
LAUGH IT UP! I BET YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH IS THE REAL ONE NOW, EITHER!
Stch! OF COURSE I DO!
JAPAN

IT'S... HMM..
...
...THIS ONE!!
カチッ KCHAK
WE JUST TURN THEM ALL ON AT ONCE!
TUT, TUT! EASILY FIXED!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE!
CHAK CHAKA CHAKKA CHAKKA
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

ALL?
YEP!
ALL!
BUT IS THIS... SAFE?

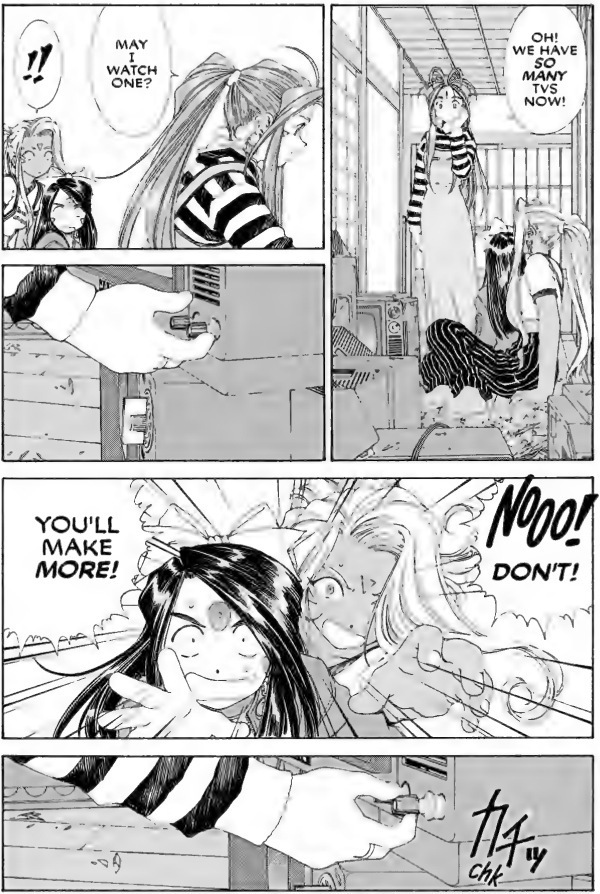
TRUST THE MINI-URDS!
IT'S OKAY!
IT'S OKAY!
ONE!
TWO!
THREE!
FOUR!
FIVE!
RIGHT, THEN! READY?
APAN


かちっ
KCHAK
かちっ
CHK
かちっ
KCHK
カチッ
KTNK

OH, NO!
WHAT WENT *WRONG?*
MINI-URD *DOWN!*
THEY'RE STILL *HERE!*
THE *REAL* ONE SHOULD'VE MADE THE REST *DISAPPEAR!*

UM, ISN'T *THAT* THE REAL TV...?
WAY DOWN! I *FORGOT* ABOUT THAT ONE...
...
...YOU KNOW, THIS *ISN'T* SAFE.
YAHHH!
わ

ドン
激

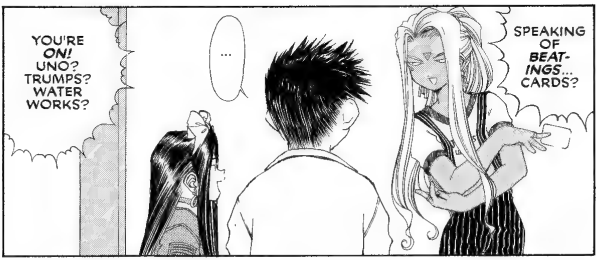

!!
MAY I WATCH ONE?
OH! WE HAVE SO MANY TVS NOW!
YOU'LL MAKE MORE!
NOOO! DON'T!
Chk

ドム
POW!
ボム
POW!
ドム
POW!
ボム
POW!
ゴッ
THWK
?

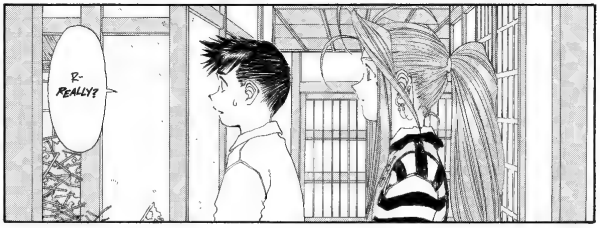
I'M HOME! AND LOOK!
SOME-ONE JUST GAVE ME THIS...!

SO, NOW YOU GUYS...
...DON'T HAVE TO *FIGHT* FOR THE TV!
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE, UHH... TWO...
...*TWO TVS!* YOU CAN EACH...
YOU DON'T *GET* IT.
JUST *WATCHING* ISN'T ANY *FUN!*

BEATING SOMEONE *ELSE* FOR THE TV IS FUN!


YOU'RE *ON!* UNO? TRUMPS? WATER WORKS?
...
SPEAKING OF *BEAT-INGS*... CARDS?

THEY'RE THE VERY BEST OF FRIENDS.
CAN'T YOU TELL?
ARE THEY BEST ENEMIES OR... OR WHAT?


R-REALLY?

I ALMOST ENVY THEIR ABILITY TO FEEL SO STRONGLY FOR EACH OTHER...
SQUISH
HA... ha?
AH!
MEANT TO TICK THAT UP!

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PUBLISHER
Mike Richardson

English-language version
produced by Dark Horse Comics

OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 20

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Published by Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222
DarkHorse.com

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First edition: February 2012
ISBN 978-1-59582-901-6

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed at Lake Book Manufacturing, Inc.,
Melrose Park, IL, USA

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Haro, eburinyun! Wait, that's Chiyo-Dad . . . from another fine manga. But *this* manga is *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 20—the end of a journey we undertook back in 2005 (remember the "manga boom"—and Borders, who always supported this series strongly) when we decided to switch publishing *OMG!* from the flopped reading format we'd used for the first twenty volumes of the story, to the Japanese reading format, which reflects the art the way Kosuke Fujishima drew it. This began in December 2005, when we released *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 1 in unflopped format. Now in February 2012, here is the unflopped *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 20, and now every one of the first forty volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* is available in the same format.

This move required the continuing support of the readers, who after all had loyally supported *Oh My Goddess!* since Dark Horse began publishing it in 1994, but had been used to reading it flopped in the eleven years that followed. As editor, I would like to thank you all once again for making this transition. I first started editing manga in 1997, during the flopped era; the first translated manga I ever read back in 1982, *Barefoot Gen*, was also flopped.

Flopping was indeed the norm in English-language manga publishing until the early 2000s. For a while it almost seemed like there was a religious war going on over the flopping-vs.-unflopping issue, won by the unflopping side . . . and yet here we are now in 2012, and flopped manga are still around and reaching new readers—look at some of the Japanese titles from Drawn & Quarterly or Vertical. For that matter, Dark Horse's *Blade of the Immortal*, the second-longest-running manga in English (after this one, of course!) is still published flopped.

Maybe I'm making it sound like it was all a waste of time? ^_^ But not only did we reach many new readers who discovered the unflopped *Oh My Goddess!*, these unflopped editions of the first twenty volumes of *OMG!* gave us the opportunity to do many things differently, from new cover designs and art (often the original unflopped editions used alternate Fujishima art from the Japanese covers), to printing color *OMG!* pages instead of grayscale (up through vol. 11, after which Fujishima stopped using interior color), to including the original "messages from the creator" (up through vol. 16, after which Fujishima stopped this feature as well), to putting the "Mini-Goddess" strips back into the manga volumes (and translating a few that had never been published in English before), as well as restoring some Japanese cultural references that are probably easier to enjoy today than they were when *OMG!* was first published in English in the 1990s.

And, of course, we had the chance to run all your new letters—getting back to

thanking you, the readers, both old and new, who continue to support our edition of *Oh My Goddess!* Where do we go from here? After 20 must come . . . 41! As you know, for these last seven years we've been switching off between the old and new volumes every two months. In December 2011, *OMG!* Vol. 40 came out. Here, in February 2012, is vol. 20. You may expect vol. 41 in April. Since we have been releasing the new volumes every four months, we will continue to do so—look for vol. 42 in August, vol. 43 in December, and so forth. That's also where your letters will still appear, alongside Kosuke Fujishima's notes on the early days of the series—a feature we've been running since vol. 34.

I've been praising the fans so much, so why don't I shut up for a moment and let them speak? ^_^ Mari Molina from Edmonton, Canada, wrote in (on *kawaii* Sanrio stationery):

Hello,

This is the first time I am sending in fan art for *Oh My Goddess!* I truly love this series, so I felt the need to send something in! I did make a small mistake in my drawing, but I hope that this is overlooked.

Although my own drawing skills do not match Kosuke Fujishima's, I did try my best to bring life into my rendition.

Mari ^∇^

Ah, Lind! She's a very intriguing goddess, because she stands apart. When you stop to think about it, the first four goddesses had all shown up by vol. 11, and it wasn't until the series had run more than twice that length that the fifth, Lind, showed up in vol. 24. Furthermore, Lind has a distinctly different personality and attitude than the generally fun-loving Belldandy, Urd, Skuld, and Peorth. One might think it's because of her

job as a Valkyrie, but looking at Chrono, maybe it's just Lind. ^_^ Of course, as you saw in vol. 39, the very fact that Lind is so serious makes her funny when faced with the absurd situations the other goddesses often find themselves in. Please don't misunderstand me, though; I respect Lind—and I'm not just saying that because I don't want her to chop me in twain with that halberd.

Ordinarily it would sound precious to say "in twain" instead of "in two." But let's face it—if someone is using a halberd, *twain* is appropriate.

Amal from Columbia Heights, MN, has an inquiry:

Dear Kosuke Fujishima,

Hi! I'm Amal. I'm nine years old and .'m in the third grade. I love your books! Every time I go to the library, I always check out the comics section to see if there are any new *Oh My Goddess!* books that just came in.

There are a couple questions I wanted to ask you. 1.) Why is Urd always getting

into trouble? 2.) Why can't Keiichi swim? 3.) Why is Belldandy so unwilling to trade Keiichi?

The reason I'm asking the number 3 question is because Belldandy's stuck to Keiichi like glue. I mean, get a vacation from him for a couple days. Anyway, my point is that Belldandy shouldn't stick to Keiichi that much.

Well, please understand that I don't mean to criticize you about your ideas. After all, it's your series . . . Well, write back soon, please. Goodbye.

Sincerely,
Amal

P.S. I know you're very busy. I don't mean to disturb you. Please try to write back.

Amal, you are a pioneer—I think you are the first person to write in to *Oh My Goddess!* who was born in the twenty-first century! Answering as editor (although Mr. Fujishima, as noted before, does receive copies of the English-language edition), let me first of all compliment you on your letter, which was very neatly written—on ruled, three-hole-punch paper to boot! None of this iPad stuff. ^_^ My guess is that you earn good grades in English class. Personally, the skills I use every day in my job working in the manga industry, are those I learned from my English teacher, who also oversaw the school newspaper. She emphasized reading as much as possible (this is the best way to learn the different ways to express ideas in writing) and then to practice using writing to communicate. One way to do that, of course, is through writing letters!

Technically, that was three questions, rather than a couple—although it's easy for me to point out others' mistakes, when I have editorial assistant Annie Gullion correcting all of mine before anyone sees them. ^_^ Okay. In the fine tradition of this letters column, I'm not exactly writing back "soon" (Amal's letter was sent last April), but here are my thoughts:

Question one: According to Belldandy, Urd was like that even before she came to Earth. Way back in vol. 2 of *Oh My Goddess!*, Belldandy tells Keiichi a story about how one time she got sick, and Urd, hearing that only the legendary Jade Dragon Stone of the East could cure her illness, rushed off and "borrowed" the eight-legged heavenly horse Sleipnir so she could go fetch the stone, not thinking about the fact that she didn't know how to ride it, and spent the next three days just getting Sleipnir under control—by which time someone else had already fetched the Jade Dragon Stone. So it seems that's just Urd's personality.

Maybe it seems like Urd just doesn't want to grow up and be responsible. But Urd *does* think about her responsibilities. In vol. 30 of *Oh My Goddess!*, we saw that even though Urd is qualified to be a Goddess First Class, she stays at Second Class rank so that she can tell lies if necessary (as we all know, Goddesses First Class are not allowed to lie—although Peorth has been known to be stingy in giving out the whole truth!). Urd does this because she believes that sometimes it's necessary to lie in order to protect her sisters from danger. In other words, she must be a person who gets into trouble to help her sisters get out of trouble . . . or that's the theory, anyway! ^_^

Question two: Keiichi's swimming skills, or lack of same. Although you have to practice swimming in Japanese PE classes, I understand that a lot of schools have pools shallow enough for you to stand up in. Now of course, you can still learn to swim in shallow water, but if you don't learn to swim in water where you can't put your foot

down, you won't develop much confidence as a swimmer and thus might suddenly "not be able to swim" in deep water. It's kind of like learning to walk a balance beam if you're always worried about how far it is to the ground. This is also just speculation, but Keiichi is from the northernmost part of Japan—Hokkaido—so maybe he wasn't inclined to spend too much time at the beach growing up, either.

Question three: Belldandy loves Keiichi, but the reason she doesn't ever take a vacation from him (as some couples do) goes back to volume 1 of the series. When Belldandy met Keiichi, she had a job in heaven working for the Goddess Technical Help Line. The job involved granting humans a wish. Whereas most people would wish to be something, or to have something, Keiichi (who was not sure whether Belldandy was really a goddess, or whether this was just some prank his friends came up with) told Belldandy, "I want a goddess like you to be with me always."

In the *Oh My Goddess!* story, the wishes humans make with goddesses are like legal contracts, except that the power of the universe itself enforces them. Since Keiichi's wish was that Belldandy be with him always, that's why she never spends any time away; even if something tries to separate them, the cosmic "system force" will intervene to bring them back together.

So she literally can't take a vacation from Keiichi, although this has never seemed to bother her personally. Unlike her sisters, I don't think Belldandy ever gets bored. I think this is because Belldandy can see much more deeply than other people can, and thus even simple or ordinary things are fascinating to her. Although she sometimes seems to be naive and to miss things that are obvious, that may be because she doesn't pay as much attention to surfaces, and is looking past that, into the true spirit or soul.

Oh, by the way, Amal sent in this two-page comic. Even though I'm not sure it's *OMG!* related, I kind of like it, so we're running it here!

And we have time for one more letter, this time from previous contributor Christina Hollcroft:

Dear Dark Horse Manga,

I am so glad that *Oh My Goddess!* is in existence. I have had one of my other pictures published in vol. 35. I hope my version of Chrono will make it into the next manga. This would be the second time I have written to you guys at Dark Horse, Inc.

The story has been changing by adding a new character in each volume, and I think it gets more and more silly in each one. Out of all the manga I have read, *Oh My Goddess!* is in first place! I love Kosuke-sama's work!

Christina Hollcroft XD

P.S. Please know me as "Nina-chan."

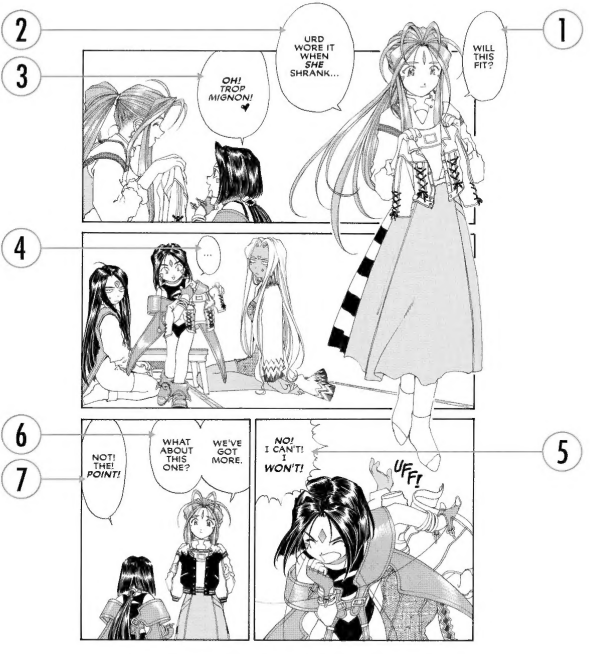
Actually, Nina-chan, this is the *third* drawing by you to appear in *Oh My Goddess!*, because we also ran your drawing of Urd and World of Elegance back in vol. 11! (It's the one with Peorth and the roses on the front cover.) Well, it's true that *OMG!* is continuing to introduce new characters as the story that began after Chrono's visit (the overthrow of Hild as CEO of the demon world) continues, but perhaps the story is getting a little more serious than usual. On the other hand, that doesn't mean it stops getting silly! After all, when Keiichi and the goddesses get serious, it's only to protect their and others' happiness, not to protect being serious . . .

Okay! Just one more reminder—we'll see you all again in April with vol. 41 of *Oh My Goddess!* To our fans old and new, thank you once again for making this the longest-running manga series in the English language! It's true I like to say that a lot, but I like to say it a lot because it's true! XD

—CGH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 20

CUTIE GLASSES GIRL SORA

Hasegawa faces off against Keiichi in a crazy go-kart race through campus to settle who will lead the Motor Club. Keiichi has the experience . . . but Hasegawa is being trained by Belldandy!

No more gap on your bookshelf, *Oh My Goddess!* fans—vol. 20 completes the run of "classic" *OMG!* series, previously released flopped, now reissued in Japanese reading order. Plus your fan art and letters!

Winner of the thirty-third Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!

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